





## Palestinian collaborators seek pay-back from Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Palestinian collaborators have launched a campaign to win rights from Israel, saying they have been let down by the Jewish state risking their lives to become informers.

For the past two weeks dozens of former collaborators have been bitterly protesting what they see as the ungrateful attitude of their former employer, camping outside Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's residence.

Some 57 families have set up tents, demanding a house, compensation and Israeli nationality.

"We served you like soldiers. You have betrayed us by signing accords with the PLO," a huge banner written in Hebrew proclaimed.

The collaborators fear they will still be targeted by Palestinian hardliners seeking revenge, despite pledges from PLO leader Yasser Arafat when he signed the autonomy accords with Israel not to move against them.

Abd Odeh, spokesman for the newly-formed collaborators' association, is bemused by the apparent Israeli indifference to their situation, saying he and his colleagues placed themselves in peril when they chose to work with Israel during the conflict with the Palestinians.

PLO leader "Yasser Arafat is a terrorist and our days are numbered under his authority," Mr. Odeh said. "We are not traitors to the cause of our people. We helped the Jews, an oppressed people, to stop the bloodshed."

Israel recruited thousands of Palestinians to act as their eyes and ears in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

About 1,000 were killed in reprisals by Palestinians during the seven year intifada, or uprising, launched in December 1987, according to army figures.

Two years after the start of the uprising Israeli authorities moved collaborators for their safety to the villages of Fahmech, close to Jenin in the West Bank, and Dehnieb in the south of the Strip.

But the two villages, which house 750 collaborators and their families, have been quietly dismantled by the Israeli army, according to a senior Israeli officer.

"The Shin Beth (security services) took us out of our houses in the West Bank to install us in Israel to better protect us," Mr. Odeh said. "But after several months they stopped paying the rent

and we were on the streets. Without us the Shin Beth would be powerless in the West Bank."

Ferial, not her real name, said: "I came here with my brothers who are collaborators. My husband was killed by other Palestinians who accused him of pro-Israeli activities."

"Despite the pretty promises I no longer have a house, or a job and Shin Beth has turned its back on us," the 25-year-old said.

An article in the Cairo Accord signed in May 1994 stipulates that the Palestinian Authority must "resolve the problem of the Palestinians who were in contact with the Israeli authorities." "Until a negotiated solution is found to their problem, it must not legally pursue or harm them in any way."

## Lebanese get hung up over mobile-phone fiasco

BEIRUT (AFP) — Mobile telephones have become the latest trendy status symbol for wealthy Lebanese but have brought to the nation's cities a now familiar refrain in many other countries.

Elegant women ringing up their friends at the hairdresser's and lay teenagers strutting the streets can be heard shouting the same thing down the pocket-sized phones in frustration: "I can't hear you... the line's breaking up."

Five months after they were introduced to Lebanon by affiliates of France Telecom and Finland Telecom, the mobile phones are proving as unreliable as the country's established telephone system, badly damaged in the 1975-90 civil war.

The cellular phones, sold at exorbitant prices as essential accessories for business people and a valued toy

for many ordinary Lebanese, do not work properly because there are not enough relay stations to deal with capacity.

In the face of a growing number of complaints, the phones fiasco has become a burning political issue, used by opposition politicians as ammunition against Prime Minister Rafic Hariri, whose government authorised their introduction.

Mr. Hariri acknowledged the issue's sensitivity last week (July 19), admitting during a televised conference: "The cellular phones work badly because the operating companies sold more lines than the current network can support."

He said the government "had made a mistake" and "should have ensured the consistency of the network's capacity" installed by the Lebanese-French consortium

Cellis and the Lebanese-Finnish group Libancell, before it started.

Even before Mr. Hariri's admission, Fadl Chalak, the post and telecommunications minister, summoned the two groups, which have a 10-year concession, and ordered them to improve services urgently for their 70,000 clients.

In response, Libancell warned its customers through inserts in newspapers Saturday that it was planning to carry out work that could hinder their reception.

The two companies, which charge an average \$1,500 for a phone and line, a \$25 monthly fee and a 10 cents per minute surcharge on top of the state phone company's tariffs, have been accused of ripping off customers.

Critics of the government condemned Mr. Hariri for

granting such a lucrative contract — worth \$1 billion — at a time when the treasury needed to finance the country's \$15 billion post-war reconstruction.

Former Prime Minister Omar Karami described the government's agreement to grant the concessions as "the biggest swindle of the century" and challenged the authorities to reveal the names of major shareholders in the operating firms.

Marwan Iskandar, a respected economist, urged the state to renounce privatisation and terminate the contracts.

Each firm has built 50 stations but an engineer said: "Even though Lebanon is small, its physical make-up, with many mountains, means we need to double the number of antennae to avoid having bad reception zones."



ACCUSED LEBANESE IN ARGENTINA: Mohammad Hassan Alayan (centre) is escorted by police to the office of San Isidro Judge Roberto Marquiech for a hearing in the March 17, 1992 bombing of a Jewish Centre of Buenos Aires. Mr. Alayan along with five other

Lebanese and one Brazilian woman, were extradited from Paraguay to respond to charges about their alleged involvement in the 1992 terrorist attack which killed 29 people. (AFP photo).

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### FIS leader on hunger strike

ALGIERS (AFP) — The number two leader of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria has begun a hunger strike to protest his detention at a secret location, his lawyers said Wednesday in a communiqué. The statement, carried by local newspapers, said Ali Belhadj was on a hunger strike to protest his "arbitrary and illegal isolation" from the outside world. The lawyers called on the Justice Ministry to reveal their client's place of detention and allow them access. It was unclear from the statement how they learned that Mr. Belhadj was on a hunger strike. Another FIS leader Abdul Khader Hachani went on a hunger strike Sunday to protest his detention at the Serkadji Prison in Algiers but reportedly called it off after three days, the daily La Tribune said Wednesday. Both Mr. Belhadj and Mr. Hachani recently took part in failed negotiations with authorities ending the civil war in Algeria. The Algerian presidency said at the time that it had taken "necessary measures" in light of the failure of the talks on July 10. A few days later Mr. Hachani's attorneys reported that he was being detained at the Serkadji Prison. The whereabouts of Mr. Belhadj and FIS leader Abassi Madani were not known.

### Bahrain to train, employ nationals

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain will step up inspections on companies and push for training programmes to find more jobs for unemployed nationals, Bahrain's Labour Minister Abdul Nabi Al Shula said in remarks published Wednesday. Mr. Shula, who took over his post in a cabinet reshuffle in June, was quoted as saying that his ministry would soon ask companies for reports on their training programmes. "The report should cover the company's achievements in the field of training, the details of personnel in charge of training, the number of people already trained and future training programmes," the minister told the Gulf Daily News. Unemployment was reported to be one of the reasons which triggered five months of anti-government protests which had died down in April. There is no official figure for unemployment in Bahrain, the least wealthy Gulf Arab oil producing states, but Information Minister Mohammad Ibrahim Al Mutawa said this month that 4,000 nationals were registered as

unemployed. He said the figure could double if "we assumed that another 4,000 unemployed were not registered." Mr. Mutawa said there were around 130,000 foreigners working in Bahrain, which has a population of a little more than 500,000.

### Cholera reported in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (AP) — At least 100 people have died from cholera in war-ravaged Afghanistan, the government said. Syed Mohammad Amin Tariq, a spokesman for the Afghan government in Pakistan, said that 97 people died from the disease in northeast Badakhshan province. The spokesman said his government had appealed for help to the United Nations and non-governmental agencies. The Taliban Student militia in Afghanistan said cholera also had broken out in the eastern provinces of Paktia and Ghazni. A Taliban spokesman said several people had died. Cholera and other epidemics are not uncommon in the summer months in Afghanistan, which has been torn by fighting among the ruling Muslim Mujahideen factions for the past three years.

### Iraq starts building Saddam Mosque

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq announced Wednesday that it had begun building the "Great Saddam Mosque" named after President Saddam Hussein and designed to hold 95,000 worshippers. Workers would dig a foundation 40 metres (132 feet) deep for the mosque which takes up 1.25 million square metres (13.45 million sq. feet), the head of engineering at the presidential palace, Houssam Khadouri, told the press. The mosque is being built at the old airport at Al Muthanna, in the centre of Baghdad, but no details have been released about how much it will cost or how long it will take to build. On April 28, when he celebrated his 58th birthday, Saddam Hussein laid the foundation stone for the Great Saddam Mosque and also ordered the construction of a second mosque called Masjid Al Rahmaan at a former horse track. The second mosque will accommodate up to 10,000 worshippers. The ruling Baath Party, although secular, began to stress its Islamic values after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, when Saddam sought to rally Muslim opinion against the U.S.-led military coalition to free the emirate.

## U.N. sees no 'military logic' at Nicosia work site

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Tuesday a controversial Turkish Cypriot project does not appear to be a military fortification however it seems unnecessarily elaborate.

In a letter to the Security Council, Dr. Ghali reported the findings of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) which inspected the site, said by the Turkish Cypriots to be for a park but which the Greek Cypriots say is intended for military use.

The site is at the Rocas Bastion, which forms part of Nicosia's old city walls, in an area covered by a 1989 so-called "unmanning agreement" designed to reduce tensions between the two rival communities.

"UNFICYP is of the view that the construction on Rocas Bastion to date, including the material used, does not

indicate work carried out to normal military specifications, nor to any evident military logic. At the same time, the construction appears unnecessarily elaborate and costly for its stated purpose," Dr. Ghali wrote.

He noted that the Rocas Bastion was in a particularly sensitive location. It dominated its vicinity in the southern, Greek Cypriot, part of the city was adjacent to a busy intersection and the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority was less than 100 metres away.

At the bastion the U.N. buffer zone was only a few metres wide and for this reason it was included in the 1989 "unmanning agreement."

The secretary-general said the Turkish Cypriot authorities had now agreed that UNFICYP would have unhindered regular access to the site as the work proceeded and until completion, and that it would have unhindered periodic access to the site thereafter.

"These arrangements will enable UNFICYP to satisfy itself that the new infrastructure being built on Rocas Bastion continues to be used exclusively for civilian purposes. The first follow-up inspection took place on July 22," he added.

Dr. Ghali also said UNFICYP found that a pre-existing military trench located at the southern end of the bastion adjacent to a military position that was unmaned in 1989 had had concrete walls installed and had been lengthened.

"The Turkish Cypriot authorities have undertaken to restore the status quo ante at this trench," he added.

The 2½-page letter included details of the excavation work, involving a number of trenches, and was accompanied by a sketch of the site. Dr. Ghali said the Turkish Cypriot authorities maintained that the construction was "for the sole purposes of installing the infrastructure which would house facilities and utilities for a public park and recreational area."

He said that, at historical sites such as this, such facilities had to be underground. The secretary-general said his deputy special representative and chief of U.N. operations in Cyprus, Gerttje Beisling, received a detailed briefing by the Turkish Cypriot authorities on July 13 and also visited the site. On July 14 an eight-man UNFICYP technical team inspected the bastion, and a two-man team did so again on July 15.

## Even under the veil, love goes on among Egypt youth

CAIRO (AFP) — Amid rising Muslim fundamentalism more Egyptian women may be taking on the veil, but that has not stifled love, romance or even sex among youth, according to a documentary film which premiered here.

A French-Egyptian production, Boys And Girls, shown at a documentary film festival in the canal city of Ismailiya on Tuesday, featured young men and women talking frankly about marriage, love and the "hijab" or veil.

"A lot more girls are wearing the veil but that doesn't mean they share the dream" of Islamic fundamentalists, the film's director Yussuf Nasrallah told AFP.

He said the film was taking aim at attitudes of the state, which mirrors the fundamentalist position that wearing the veil is simply a religious duty. It also disputes liberals' criticism of the veil, who condemn it as a sign of spreading fundamentalism.

"I think it's very condescending just to say (the trend) is bad. There is a level underneath that

shows how people go on living even under oppression."

As much as a sign of conservatism, women put on the veil "as a survival tactic. A girl puts on a veil and then does what she wants," Nasrallah said.

The documentary follows Bassim Samra, 25, filming him at home, with his friends and at a boys' technical school in Cairo, where he earns 85 Egyptian pounds (\$30) a month working as a teacher.

Wearing the veil often means that it will be acceptable in Egypt's traditional society for the increasing number of young women working outside the home to mingle with men, many of whom are frustrated and unable to afford marriage, many women said in the film.

Women "study, we work outside the home, but we also will eventually marry. (The veil) is not a matter of religion, it's a matter of propriety," a veiled teacher in the neighbouring girls' technical school said.

Other women said they put it on for the purely secular reason of avoiding gossip and men's come-ons.

"I was in a mixed school of boys and girls and I hung out a lot with boys. So people were saying things about me. I put on the veil because I didn't want to attract attention," one woman said.

"I still get harassed (by boys) but now it's a little less," said Hanan. "But it's just a piece of clothing. It doesn't mean you're actually more pure."

But girls are taught early on, even by the state, that a veil equals respectability and more marriage prospects.

Sanaa, a government teacher, lectured her students, almost all veiled: "If your husband loves you, he will want you to wear the veil."

"I think we've all got split personalities, we're both strict and permissive," said Bassim in a conversation with male friends, all bachelors. "We want a respectable woman in a veil to marry but we want to see women too."

But the definition of "respectable" is vague. The four friends fell into a debate about whether kissing is considered sex.

"It's a start," one concluded. "You never fool around with someone you're going to marry," said another.

But several of them admitted to having had sex. "What, should I wait forever to get married?" Bassim said.

Many of the unmarried girls hinted at their own experiences with boys, then shyly backed away. "I can't tell you that sort of thing, you're my brother," Bassim's sister told him.

Although Nasrallah intends to submit the film to state television for broadcast, he admitted its realist approach made its chances of acceptance slim.

"Neither the government nor the fundamentalists can accept this sort of dialogue," which is very frank by Egyptian standards, he said.

Television rarely shows documentaries made by independent Egyptian filmmakers. The documentaries it does show are "without content," Nasrallah said, "usually just scenes of happy people with a music soundtrack."

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-14

#### PROGRAMME TWO

13:30 In-the-Laps Professor  
14:00 Noddy  
14:00 Flicman Sam  
14:15 My Secret Identity  
14:30 NBA  
15:00 Pirates Island  
15:30 Take Your Pick  
16:00 Winnes Video  
17:00  
Children's Programme — Spirou  
17:30 Varieties  
18:00 News in French  
19:15 Magazine — Portrait D'Alain  
Cautiel  
19:30 News Headlines  
19:35 National Geographic  
20:30 The Album Show  
21:15 Murder She Wrote  
22:00 News in English  
22:25  
Feature Film: "Russian Holiday"  
22:50 Shogun

#### PRAYER TIMES

04:13 Fair  
18:42 (Sunrise) Dubai  
12:42 Dubai  
16:23 Dhahran  
19:42 Maghreb  
21:11 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swiffish, Tel: 810741  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel: 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel: 624581  
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 637481  
De la Saile Church Tel: 661737  
Terresanta Church Tel: 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 625541  
Anglican Church Tel: 628551, Tel: 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 773261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel: 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel: 652526  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 64195  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 634912  
Church of Nazareth Tel: 615641  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman  
Tel: 811285

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Moderate hot weather conditions will prevail with wind northwesterly, moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm.

Min. Max. temp.  
Amman 20-30  
Aqaba 20-30  
Dhahran 28-36  
Jordan Valley 25-39

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 34 Aqaba 40, Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 601111  
Rescue 636441  
Civil Defence Emergency 191  
Rescue Police 192, 631111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 631101  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 634302  
Traffic Police 639491  
Public Security Department 636521  
Hotel Complaints 1015801  
Price Complaints 601176  
Water and Sewerage 607466  
Complaints 607466  
Amman Municipality 637111  
Complaints 637111  
Telephone Information 121  
Directory assistance 121  
Overseas Calls 101230

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Ahmad Othman 786384  
Dr. Jamal Jbara 647351  
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 640781  
Dr. Muhammad Omran 612232  
Firas pharmacy 664912  
Al Aswa pharmacy 776336  
Farkas pharmacy 637055  
Narmath pharmacy 626772  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hassan Medical Centre 636133  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Ann 642816  
Al-Khaldi Maternity, J. Ann 642816  
Jahat Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman 636440  
Palestine, Shmeeran 661171  
Shmeeran Hospital 660131  
University Hospital 635345  
Al-Mansour Hospital 662279  
The Islamic, Alshah 666173  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666164  
Italian, Al-Mansour 661101  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 771112  
Ayem, Alshah 661111  
Queen Alia Hospital 602230  
Amal Hospital 607133  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 605191

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

#### ARRIVALS

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ)

#### Flights (Terminal 1)

05:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur  
11:45 Aden (RJ)  
12:00 Tunis (RJ)  
12:00 Tunis, Montreal (RJ)  
12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:35 Paris (RJ)  
13:15 London (RJ)  
13:15 Cairo (RJ)  
14:00 Larnaca (RJ)  
14:00 Madras (RJ)  
14:00 Jeddah (RJ)  
14:00 Bahrain, Jeddah (RJ)  
14:15 Bangkok, Jakarta (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:45 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)  
06:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)  
06:45 Rome (RJ)  
06:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
06:30 Larnaca (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:00 Doha (RJ)  
13:40 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)  
14:00 Rome (RJ)  
14:00 Riyadh (RJ)  
14:00 Paris, Damascus (RJ)  
14:05 Cairo (RJ)  
14:10 Doha (RJ)  
14:10 Beirut (RJ)  
14:10 London (RJ)  
14:10 Amsterdam (RJ)

#### DEPARTURES

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ)

#### Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)  
12:00 Tunis (RJ)  
12:00 Tunis, Montreal (RJ)  
12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:35 Paris (RJ)  
13:15 London (RJ)  
13:15 Cairo (RJ)  
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14:00 Madras (RJ)  
14:00 Jeddah (RJ)  
14:00 Bahrain, Jeddah (RJ)  
14:15 Bangkok, Jakarta (RJ)

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14:00 Bahrain, Jeddah (RJ)  
14:15 Bangkok, Jakarta (RJ)

Her Majesty Queen  
the Jubilee School.  
Students  
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Queen Noor We  
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Jubilee School.  
Court statement said  
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ties, multi-media  
dial packages, dat  
games and cartoo  
statement said.  
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as well as lectures  
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p.m.  
Play entitled, "The  
6:00 p.m.  
Concert by Laith Ha  
Performance by op  
Foland at Royal Cult  
Children's play, "Zi  
Light Theatre, Thurs.  
Concert by children.  
Egyptian circus, For  
Concert by Asala Na  
8:30 p.m.  
Concert by Nation  
Artemis Theatre, Fri.  
Concert by Philaeo  
Light Theatre, Thurs.  
Ghem Drum Show (C  
9:00 p.m.  
Concert by Najib Ha  
Performance by Jugr  
Performance by sev  
10:30-9:00 p.m.)





Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday opens the 'Mega Mind' Computer Exhibition at the Jubilee School (Petra photo)

## Students exhibit computer skills at Jubilee School 'Mega Mind' Expo

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday opened the 'Mega Mind' Computer Exhibition at the Jubilee School, a Royal Court statement said.

The two-day exposition, in which 10 computer companies are participating, features software developed by the students for educational programmes, computer utilities, multi-media information packages, data banks, games and cartoons, the statement said.

The exposition also includes the students' computer-generated newsletters, advertisements and posters as well as lectures on various aspects of computer technology and its applications.

Fifty Jubilee School students from the 9th and 10th grades participated in the Mega Mind Expo, according to the statement.

Queen Noor commended the Ministry of Education on establishing computer science as part of the schools' curricula requirements and expressed hope that all the country's schools and universities would have access to updated global information and communication via the INTERNET, the statement said.

The Jubilee School, one of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) educational programmes, is an independent co-educational secondary school for outstanding scholarship students.

The school is already linked to INTERNET. It is dedicated to the development of the intellect and leadership potential of Jordanian students with special emphasis on students from less developed parts of the country, the statement said.

His Royal Highness Prince Hamzah accompanied Queen Noor to the event. The Queen was received by President of the NHF Board of Trustees In'am Mufti, Member of the NHF Board Nawaz Shaker and members of the Board of NHF as well as of the Jubilee School Steering Committee.

## Jordan, Ukraine to initiate 3 accords

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Ukrainian committee has agreed to initiate three accords aimed at promoting economic investment and trade relations between the two countries.

The committee reviewed the main topics to be taken up by the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference due in Amman in October.

According to a statement following the committee meeting at the Ministry of Industry and Trade Wednesday, the two sides consented to the signing of an agreement on economic cooperation, another on preventing dual taxation and a third on encouraging and protecting investments in the two countries.

The two sides exchanged drafts of the three accords and agreed on the exchange of formal documents within a month in order for procedures to commence on placing the accords within their respective legal frameworks, said the statement.

The statement also said that the committee reviewed topics on the agenda of the MENA conference and on Jordanian-Ukrainian cooperation in launching joint projects to be put forth to the participating countries.

Before the committee's meeting, the Ukrainian delegation, led by Ukraine Deputy Foreign Minister Constantine Grishenko, met Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb to review areas for mutual economic and trade cooperation and to discuss the role of private sectors in the two countries to help increase the volume of trade and investment schemes between them.

The Ukrainian official said his country was willing to participate in the October conference and that the meeting will have special significance in the peace era.

Following the meetings, the Ukrainian delegation held talks with Jordanian businessmen and representatives of the private-sector in Jordan.

Mr. Grishenko met later with Ministry of Supply Secretary General Mustafa Khleifat with whom he discussed the prospect of selling Ukrainian fresh refrigerated meat to Jordan and the necessary procedures connected with transporting the meat and the setting of prices.

According to a statement following the meeting, the two sides also discussed



Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb Wednesday meets with visiting Ukrainian Foreign Minister Constantine Grishenko and his accompanying delegation who are in Amman to discuss trade and economic cooperation (Petra photo)

possible exports of Ukrainian sugar, wheat, barley, dried milk and rice at reasonable prices and other requirements for the Civil Consumer Corporation.

Mr. Grishenko and Mr. Khleifat discussed economic cooperation and agreed that they should follow up on their discussions at a later date once Ukraine has supplied Jordan with a list of commodities and goods that could be sold to Jordan at reasonable prices and in accordance with agreed upon specifications.

possible exports of Ukrainian sugar, wheat, barley, dried milk and rice at reasonable prices and other requirements for the Civil Consumer Corporation.

## Official delegates to World Conference on Women meet to coordinate

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday attended the opening of a two-day coordinating meeting of the Jordanian official delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women which will be held in Beijing in September, a Queen Alia Fund for Social Development statement said.

This is the first coordinating meeting of the official delegation which was named recently and includes Jordanian officials and representatives of all sectors concerned with women and social development in general.

During the meeting, the participants discussed the International Platform of Action for the Beijing conference in several working sessions.

The goal was to come up with the Jordanian perspective and priorities on the issues raised in the platform which will then be presented in Beijing.

The non-governmental delegation, which is also headed by Princess Basma, held a similar meeting last week, during which they agreed on their stand

towards a number of issues included in the Platform of Action.

The conference marks the fourth time that most of the world's nations meet to discuss issues concerning women and gender in general and to come up with common principles and action plans towards improving the status of women around the world.

The first world conference on women was held during International Year of the Woman in Mexico City in 1975; the second in Copenhagen in 1980, and the third in Nairobi in 1985.

Each conference is held under a different motto describing current priorities. This year's motto is Action for Equality, Development and Peace.

The members of Jordan's official delegation to the World Conference on Women are: Minister of Social Development Salwa Damen-Masria, Senator Kamel Abu Jaber, Deputy Toujan Faisal, Deputy Mohammad Daoudieh, Secretary General of the Ministry of Health Hani Oweiss (representing the National

Population Committee), Ambassador to China Samir Nanuri, Ambassador Plenipotentiary to the U.N. Fouad Bataineh, Ambassador Plenipotentiary to China Fouad Atiyeh, Adviser to the Ministry of Labour Ayoub Bataineh, Assistant Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning Salim Ghawi, Mayor of Wadadeh Iman Futeimat, Director of the Women's Police Force Captain Kifaya Hammad, President of the General Federation of Jordanian Women Hana' Abu Ghazaleh, President of the Jordanian Women Union Asma Khader, representing the General Union of Voluntary Societies, Emily Nafaa, representing the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development, Amal Farhan, representing Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Hind Douwani, representing women's committees in the governorates, Mai Abu Samen Arabiyat and Nada Tal, representing the private sector Wasif Azar, representing the youth sector Farah Daghestani, General Coordinator General and Coordinator for the Jordanian Coordinating Office for the Beijing conference Shadi

Nuseir and Salwa Nasser, Director of the Secretary General's Office of the Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs Hayam Kalimat, member of the Shura Council of the Islamic Action Front Nawal Faouri, health expert Ghaida Kutub, information officer at Princess Basma's office Awni Badr, military escort for Princess Basma Major Nazih Abu Taleb.

Also Wednesday the Jordanian delegation, Petra reported, that Princess Basma attended the graduation of 18 women from the

private and public sectors who successfully completed a training course in leadership skills. The course was organised by the Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs in cooperation with the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST). The course aims to enhance women's skills in the decision making process at the various administrative levels. The graduation ceremony was attended by HCST Secretary General Hani Mulki and the Canadian chargé d'affaires in Jordan.

## Qatar, Jordan to study means of judicial cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Justice Minister Hisham Tal Wednesday met with a visiting Qatari judicial delegation, led by acting Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Justice Yousef Ni'mah to discuss means of enhancing scopes of bilateral cooperation and exchange of expertise in the judicial field.

Mr. Tal voiced his ministry's interest in further enhancing bilateral cooperation with Qatar's justice ministry and said it is willing to exchange information and expertise in the judicial

field with Qatar. The visit by the Qatari delegation is a prelude to a series of visits by Jordanian and Qatari delegations and for holding judicial agreements between both countries, Mr. Tal said.

Head of the Qatari delegation said the visit was aimed at finding new scopes of cooperation in the judicial field with Jordan, in addition to exchanging experiences.

He also said that part of the delegation's mission is to contract several Jordanian

judges to work in Qatari courts and to utilise Jordan's judicial expertise and legislation in Qatar.

Mr. Ni'mah noted that his country is currently embarking on a process of updating basic laws, particularly the commercial, civil and penal laws.

The two-member delegation will visit courts of justice, cassation and the Judicial Institute. The meeting was attended by Qatari ambassador to Jordan Naser Abdul Aziz Nasr.

## PSD stops 180 drug trafficking attempts

AMMAN (Petra) — In the first six months of 1995 the Public Security Department intercepted 180 drug trafficking attempts and arrested the perpetrators, according to Director of the Anti-Narcotics and Forgery Department Colonel Nazih Shraideh.

Col. Shraideh Wednesday said the cases included 1,952 kilograms of hashish, 9,900 grammes of hashish oil, and 6.4 kilograms of hashish dust, and other illicit drugs.

## Cement industry production levels remain below expectations, says Arab federation official

AMMAN (Petra) — A gathering of members of the Arab Federation for Cement and Building Materials (AFCBM) met here Wednesday with representatives of five Arab countries.

The two-day meeting, organised by the AFCBM in cooperation with the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC), met to discuss pressing problems facing the cement industry, the effects of the industry on the environment, integrating cement

industries in the Arab World and issues relating to training and the exchange of Arab expertise in the field of cement and building materials production as well as the latest technology in cement production and building material.

Secretary General of the Damascus-based AFCBM Ahmad Rousan said that cement production has increased from 15 million

tonnes in the 1970s to 105 million tonnes today.

However, Mr. Rousan said, despite these figures, production levels are still below expectations.

He stressed the need for identifying gaps and problems facing the production process and for applying the latest production technology.

In his opening speech, Mr. Rousan called for formulating an integrated Arab strategy for the cement industry

to upgrade its level of production, saying that such a strategy can only be worked out and implemented through inter-Arab cooperation and cooperation between cement industries in the various Arab countries.

Technical assistant to JCFC's Director General, Hani Khammash, outlined the importance of the meeting saying that it provides an

opportunity for the exchange of experiences, and to finding solutions to problems facing the cement industry.

Mr. Khammash pointed out the latest technological developments in the cement industry, saying that the JCFC has already applied some of the new technologies.

Taking part in the meetings are representatives of Jordan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Egypt.

## Princess Basma to chair water conservation workshop

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma today will chair a two-day workshop on role of women in water conservation. The workshop, to be held at Zay Park near Salt, is organised by the Jordan Environment Society in cooperation with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The workshop will seek to train women leaders in the Balqa governorate to carry out campaigns in their communities to conserve water and rationalise its use. Jordan's high fertility rate, which stands at 3.4 per cent, and its declining mortality rate, coupled with the availability of only 327 cubic metres of annual renewable fresh water per person, has made it necessary for Jordan to adopt water conservation measures.

## WHAT'S GOING

### JERASH FESTIVAL

Concert by Poltex Folklore Group of Poland at the Sound & Light Theatre at 8:00 p.m.

Play, "Abada in the Tempest," Artemis Steps, Thurs., at 9:00 p.m.

Play entitled, "The Mule," Gracia Theatre, Thurs. & Fri., 8:00 p.m.

Concert by Laith Haddad, Gracia Theatre, Thurs., 9:30 p.m.

Performance by opera singer Christopher Barashvetch of Poland at Royal Cultural Centre, Thurs. at 8:30 p.m.

Children's play, "Zina and the Flute," at the Sound and Light Theatre, Thurs. & Fri. at 7:45 p.m.

Concert by children, Artemis Theatre, Fri., 7:45 p.m.

Egyptian circus, Forum, Thurs., Fri., 9:30 p.m.

Concert by Asala Nasri of Syria, South Theatre, Thurs., Fri., 9:30 p.m.

Concert by National Music Conservatory Orchestra, Artemis Theatre, Fri., 9:00 p.m.

Concert by Philadelphia University Group at Sound & Light Theatre, Thurs., 9:00 p.m.

Drum Show (France), Sound & Light Theatre, Fri., 9:00 p.m.

Concert by Najib Haddad, Gracia Theatre, Fri., 9:30 p.m.

Performance by Jugnu Group, Forum, Fri., 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Performance by several Jordanian groups at the Forum (8:30-9:00 p.m.).

## Coffee market prices create confusion for importers, consumers

By Lola Keilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Coffee prices are creating some confusion in the market with importers worried about fluctuating international coffee market prices on the one hand, and persistent intervention by the Ministry of Supply on setting the local market coffee price, on the other.

Last week, an agreement was reached between the Ministry of Supply and wholesalers on a 4% reduction in the internal coffee market prices.

The reduction in the prices came after the Ministry of Supply met with the Food and Supply Association

Wednesday and demanded a reduction in prices of coffee or face a renewal of fixed prices set by the ministry.

Director of Public Relations at the Ministry of Supply Ahmad Theibani said that prices of coffee in the local market should level with international market prices which have recently taken a sharp drop.

Mr. Theibani said that last year, when the international prices of coffee went up, a decision was taken by the Prime Minister to float coffee prices.

"Importers increased their coffee prices then, in spite of the fact that they had already purchased big amounts of coffee at the old

prices, be added.

Although importers responded positively to the ministry's demands, allowing for the reduction of prices from JD5 to JD4.800 per kilo, they argue that international coffee prices registered a low level for a duration of only two weeks.

Meanwhile, they continue to argue, coffee imports take at least a month to arrive to Jordan, allowing for a new increase in prices.

Another of their arguments states that coffee comes in different qualities, and a fixed price for the different qualities is not feasible.

"On Friday, prices of

Brazilian coffee in the international market went up, and we had to import coffee according to the new prices. But the ministry will not allow us to sell for more than JD5 per kilo," said Nasser Fawaz owner of Shubada Mills.

On the other hand, consumers still complain that the prices have not been reduced and that supermarkets and groceries are still selling it for JD 5 per kilo.

Owners of supermarkets and groceries explain that they are still buying coffee from wholesalers according to the old prices of JD4 per kilo.

"They cannot afford to sell it for less than JD 5 per kilo

since, according to them, the process of preparing coffee for sale requires overhead expenses, grinding, adding cardamom, as well as the fact that up to 25% of the coffee's weight is lost after roasting.

"Coffee mills can afford to sell coffee, directly to the consumer, at the lower prices and make profit out of it because they import their coffee. But when they sell us they do not reduce prices," said Zaki Naboulsi, manager of Kalbunch stores.

"Coffee mills that do not import their own coffee, but buy it directly from the local market," said Jawad Yaseen,

owner of Qabas mills, "do not reduce the prices of good quality Brazilian and Kenyan coffee. They reduce only the cheaper qualities like Robusta."

"I have no problem selling poor quality coffee for JD 3.75 per kilo," said Mr. Yaseen. "The Ministry is only interested in seeing the prices go down but they do not check to see which kind of coffee is actually being reduced in price."

The Ministry of Supply said they have no idea that coffee is still being sold at the old prices of JD5 per kilo.

"We will check into the matter," Mr. Theibani said.



## Russia modifies position on Chechenya peace talks

MOSCOW (R) — Russia, signalling a change in policy, said Wednesday it was ready to sign a military accord now with rebel Chechens without waiting for a full political agreement, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhailov, who heads Russia's delegation at the talks, told TASS after meeting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin that his team had changed its position "to secure a quick end to the armed conflict in Chechenya."

Mr. Mikhailov told TASS the Russian side "was ready to limit the current stage of talks to signing an agreement on military issues. This document is badly needed to open the way to peace in the republic."

Peace talks aimed at solving the seven-month conflict in the north Caucasus broke up in the regional capital Grozny on Tuesday. They are due to resume Saturday.

A political accord, initially meant to be part of a full agreement along with the military and economic deals, has been a stumbling point in the last two weeks.

The two sides have been unable to agree on the future constitutional status of the

separatist region. The Chechens want independence, while Moscow is prepared to give them only a limited sovereignty inside Russia.

Meanwhile, Russian and rebel Chechens fought gun battles in breakaway Chechenya overnight after peace talks were suspended, ITAR-TASS news agency said Wednesday.

TASS quoted Russian military sources as saying federal troops came under fire nine times and returned fire on six occasions in incidents across the rebel territory.

Mr. Mikhailov told Interfax News Agency Tuesday that while the question of Chechenya's constitutional status had been "virtually agreed", the two sides were deadlocked on the question of a government for a transitional pre-election period.

The talks, held at the building of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Grozny, broke off to allow delegates to look at Russian proposals for a deal on a series of military issues.

On June 31 the two sides agreed a protocol laying the framework for a military deal. But the Chechens have been reluctant to sign any agreement.

Mr. Mikhailov told Interfax the military agreement would underpin the protocol and incorporate some new provisions on disarming the rebels and withdrawing Russian troops.

The rebels, loyal to separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, would say Saturday whether they were ready to sign or not, Mr. Mikhailov said.

But Mr. Dudayev, who earlier criticised the talks as "hair-splitting", was quoted by RIA Novosti News Agency as saying members of the Chechen delegation did not think it was possible for them to take further part in the talks.

As the talks broke up Tuesday a fierce gun battle ensued in Grozny, demonstrating the fragility of a ceasefire which has been the only tangible result of the peace talks.

Russian news agencies said Wednesday that at least six pro-Dudayev snipers, using assault rifles and grenade launchers had been operating near the OSCE mission where the talks had been held.

Agencies said the bodies of at least two dead Chechen fighters were found after the Tuesday fighting subsided. TASS said one member of

the Russian Omon special forces was also killed and another wounded in the half-hour gun battle.

Sporadic small arms fire and Grenade launchers reverberated around Grozny overnight. The Russians military was quoted by TASS as saying the situation was particularly tense in the city's Leninsky and Zavodsky districts.

In a separate development, two men armed with grenades and automatic rifles attacked a passenger train travelling through Chechenya, wounding two police officers, a Russian military official told the Interfax agency Wednesday.

The train travelling from Moscow to Makhachkala, capital of the Russian Republic of Dagestan, which neighbours the separatist region of Chechenya, was attacked near the village of Nizhny Gerzel in the border region between the two Caucasian republics, the official said.

He did not say when the attack took place.

Many separatist Chechen fighters are still based in the mountainous region of Nizhny Gerzel where clashes have taken place with Russian forces despite a ceasefire in force for more than a month.



A Mexican military policeman stands guard at the perimeter of the meeting place in San Andres Larrainzar, Chiapas, Mexico, where the Mexican government and the Zapatistas rebels are meeting for peace talks. The government said the Zapatistas are delaying the talks by making unreasonable demands (AFP photo)

## Mexico peace talks make no headway

SAN ANDRES LARRAINZAR, Mexico (AFP) — Government and rebel representatives have made no progress after two days of peace talks, but a top-level meeting between both sides to break the impasse is on the cards.

The Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) said in a statement late Tuesday that they accepted in principle a proposal by the National Action Party (PAN) for a meeting between Interior Minister Emilio Chuayfett and Zapatista leader, Subcomandante Marcos.

PAN officials said they hoped that the meeting, for which a time and place have yet to be decided, will lead to some progress in the peace negotiations begun earlier this year.

There was no immediate official response to PAN's

initiative. Both sides at the fifth round of peace talks begun Monday continued to blame each other for the stalemate, with the Zapatistas warning Tuesday that the government's "intransigence" could well lead to a collapse of the negotiations.

The rebels were especially critical of the government's withdrawal of a proposal it had previously made for a buffer zone to be set up in Chiapas where rebel troops could congregate.

Government officials said the proposal was withdrawn because the Zapatistas had made no move to fulfill their part of the agreement and had brought up the subject at the talks "extemporaneously."

The officials said both sides had agreed at the start of the

current round of talks to focus on the rules and procedures for the negotiations, leaving all other issues for a later meeting.

The Zapatistas rebels first rose up against the government Jan. 1, 1994 demanding better economic and social conditions for the state's impoverished ethnic-Maya majority.

The rebels later demanded democratic political reform on the state and national levels.

In April, the government and the EZLN, led by masked commander Subcomandante Marcos, agreed to make this small Chiapas town the headquarters of their dialogue and set out to tackle the issues.

All previous negotiating sessions broke off without agreement.

## Richard Branson to circle world by balloon

LONDON (R) — British entrepreneur Richard Branson said Tuesday he planned to circle the world by balloon, relying on wind alone to propel his three-man crew across two oceans and three continents. "This is the last great aviation record and adventure left on earth. The project is in the spirit of Jules Verne and there would be special significance in bringing the record to Europe before the millennium," Branson said in a statement. Best known as an astute businessman whose Virgin Group of companies ranges from air travel to vodka to music, Branson has also won wide spread publicity for previous stunts at sea and on air. In 1986, Branson completed the fastest crossing of the Atlantic by boat. In 1987 and 1991 respectively, Branson and balloon manufacturer Per Lindstrand became the first adventurers to cross the Atlantic and the Pacific by hot-air balloon. They will pair up again for their attempt to circle the world in a journey that is expected to take 18 to 21 days and hit speeds of up to 250 miles per hour (380 km per hour). Branson had vowed never to fly balloons again after a near-disaster on his Pacific trip. Asked about his change of heart, Branson said he tended to forget his moments of desperation and wanted to beat off strong contenders from overseas to maintain Britain's record as the world leader in balloon flights. Branson.

## Woman goes to police to admit drink-driving

LONDON (R) — A British woman was so overcome with remorse at motoring after drinking alcohol that she stopped her car at the local police station and confessed to the offence, a court heard Tuesday. Ann Spivey, a 43-year-old nursing assistant, told an astonished duty officer at the station in Exeter, western England: "I wish to report I have been drinking and driving in my car."

Spivey's lawyer, James Cross, told the court one of her relations had died in a drink-driving incident. "She wanted herself to be punished and taken off the road," he said. The court granted her request, banning her from driving for a year.

## Florida home has nation's worst roaches

JOACKSONVILLE, Fla. (R) — A Florida woman has won the dubious honours of living in the home with the nation's worst infestation of cockroaches, a company that sponsored the contest said Tuesday. Rebecca Lynn was the winner of a national competition put on by San Francisco-based Combat Labs, maker of a roach fighting product. Lynn, who said she keeps her house clean, said she was relieved to win the prize from among the hundreds of entrants from 34 states that entered the contest. "We have to shake the roaches to take a shower, we have to hold our plates at dinner so they won't eat the food and we have to sleep sitting up so roaches won't crawl on us at night," she said. In coming forward with her problem, Lynn said she hoped that her example would help others afflicted with roaches. Lynn's prize is a visit from Austin Frishman, a nationally recognised entomologist who treated her home, \$1,000 in cash and a year's supply of combat products. Combat said Lynn's home was infested with more than 100,000 roaches.

## Priest charged with adultery

LAGOS (AFP) — A Nigerian Roman Catholic priest has been taken to court for allegedly committing adultery, the A.M. newspaper reported here Tuesday. In a suit filed at the Ajo Adala High Court in southern Rivers state, the husband of the woman, who is a civil servant, claimed one million naira (\$45,454) as damages against the man named in the newspaper as Reverend Father C.A. for allegedly enticing his wife and committing adultery with her. He urged the court to restrain the priest from further interfering with his wife. The judge awarded 200 naira (\$9) costs against the defendant and adjourned the case till Oct. 26, the independent newspaper said.

## Simpson defence witness appears to backfire

LOS ANGELES (R) — A decision by O.J. Simpson's defence team to call an FBI expert to testify about blood analysis appeared to backfire when the agent said there was no indication that vital blood evidence had been planted.

The football hero's attorneys have tried to convince jurors that blood spots found at the double murder scene outside Nicole Simpson's luxury condominium in the upscale Los Angeles neighbourhood of Brentwood, and at Simpson's multi-million dollar estate two miles away, were put there by vengeful detectives.

But Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent Roger Martz, a forensic expert in charge of the chemical analysis section of the FBI Laboratory in Washington, D.C., said he did not find a chemical blood preservative called EDTA in blood stains recovered from the murder scene and from Simpson's socks collected from his bedroom the day after the murders.

Simpson, who became a nationally known sportscaster, actor, and TV pitchman for a car rental company following his football glory days, has pleaded not guilty to the murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman, who were killed on June 12 of last year.

His attorneys have argued that blood samples given by Simpson and taken from the victims were deliberately planted by police in a manner that would implicate Simpson.

To prove their case they have tried to show that the chemical EDTA, used by both the Los Angeles Police Department Crime Laboratory and the Los Angeles Coroner's Office to prevent blood from coagulating, was present in vital blood evidence.

But Mr. Martz, who has worked as a chemical analyst for the FBI for 18 years, looked straight at the jurors as he answered a question from defence attorney Robert Blasler, and told them, "everyone's saying I found EDTA (in the blood samples). I never said that."

He said he did not find the chemical on Simpson's socks, which allegedly contained the blood of Nicole Simpson, nor did he find EDTA on blood spots found on the rear gate of Nicole Simpson's condominium claims came from Simpson.

"EDTA was not present on the sock or on the gate. I believe my data has been misinterpreted by someone else," Mr. Martz said in a reference to Monday's testimony of Dr. Fredric Rieders, a nationally known forensic toxicologist who said that, using Mr. Martz' results, he had found significant levels of EDTA in the blood samples from the socks and the rear gate.

## EU unveils plans for new ties with U.S.

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Commission called Wednesday for a radical overhaul of the political, economic and security relationship between the European Union and the United States.

The publication of a commission strategy paper was the first stage of the EU's preparations for a summit between EU leaders and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Madrid in December.

The Madrid summit is expected to make a political statement on future relations with the United States and agree an action plan for deepening ties which have recently appeared to be under strain.

The plan is expected to be largely based on the proposals the commission unveiled Wednesday.

Concrete ideas in the document include the creation of a Trans-Atlantic Economic Space, the launching of a feasibility study into the creation of a free trade zone and a framework for regular contacts to discuss the evolving security relationship between the United States and Europe.

The paper also calls for closer macroeconomic coop-

eration to reduce the negative impact of currency fluctuations, particularly in view of the planned creation of a European single currency.

The initiative represents an attempt to construct a new partnership and ensure that the close ties forged during the cold war are not allowed to wither in the new world order.

It comes amid distinct signs of strain in the Trans-Atlantic relationship with the United States and European Union increasingly at odds on trade issues and the integrity of the North Atlantic alliance under pressure from differences between Washington and the European allies over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The completion of an interim financial services agreement in Geneva Wednesday was just one recent example of the European Union and the United States going their separate ways on the world stage.

The U.S. decision to withdraw from efforts to strike a global pact on opening up the sector to competition, irritated EU states and would at one time have been enough to scupper all chances of an accord.

## Clinton warns of 'gamble' on health care for aged

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has accused Republicans of gambling with the lives of Medicare recipients with their spending cut plans, a charge House Speaker Newt Gingrich dismissed as "demagoguery."

With next Sunday marking the 30th anniversary of the Medicare programme, Mr. Clinton went to Capitol Hill for partisan ceremonies designed to whip up opposition to Republican plans to re-vamp a system that provides health insurance to Americans over 65.

"Those who want to gamble with Medicare are asking Americans to bet their lives," the Democratic president said to a group of several hundred people, most of them senior citizen activists. "And why should they bet their lives? Not to balance the budget, not to strengthen the Medicare Trust Fund, but simply to pay for a big tax cut for people who don't need it," he said.

"It's a bad deal. We ought not to do it," Mr. Clinton said of the Republican plan, which is still being formed.

Mr. Gingrich dismissed Mr. Clinton's charges, saying: "I think to try to scare senior citizens as a re-election technique a year and a half before the election is frankly a very despicable strategy."

"I have a simple challenge to the president," he said. "You tell the country before this week is out what you would if you don't have one, cut out the demagoguery, sit down with us."

The Medicare Board of

Trustees earlier this year issued a report that projected that the system will go bankrupt in seven years unless changes are put in place.

Laura Tyson, head of Mr. Clinton's National Economic Council, said in an interview with Reuters that the administration was working on its own Medicare proposals and would offer them either as legislation or as a "detailed exposition" to the public in the next several weeks.

Mr. Gingrich and Senate Republican leader Bob Dole issued a joint letter to Mr. Clinton asking him to send all Medicare recipients the board's report to offset "a large dose of political rhetoric, and regrettably, some distortions."

The ceremony was clearly designed to generate opposition to the Republican proposals and boost the spirits of Democrats in Congress, who last November were thrust into a minority role in both chambers for the first time in 40 years.

The Medicare issue is almost certain to be a key one next year when Mr. Clinton must stand for re-election with the Democrats portraying themselves as the protectors of the nation's elderly and Republicans painting the Democrats as the party of higher taxes and runaway budget deficits.

As part of their balanced budget plan, Republicans want to slow the growth in Medicare spending by \$270 billion by 2002. Spending would still increase from \$178 billion this year to \$274 billion in the seven-year period.

## Cambodian rebel sentenced to 15 years in jail

SIHANOUKVILLE, (R) — A former Khmer Rouge guerrilla was sentenced Wednesday to 15 years in jail for his role in last year's murder of three Westerners after the defence argued he was just following order.

Four other rebels were sentenced in absentia for terms ranging from 16 to 20 years, including Commander Sam Bo, who was charged with having given the execution order.

The Defence Counsel told the court in the southern port city of Sihanoukville if Chuon Mean, 30, and four other rebels had refused Sam Bo's order to shoot the captives they themselves would have been shot.

"To make sure the five did not refuse the order to kill them Sam Bo assigned (one of the rebels) Phat As leader of the group... If anyone did not kill the foreigners then Phat would kill them," said public defender Heng Pung. Chuon Mean had confessed to the murder of Australian Kellie Wilkinson, 24, her British boyfriend Dominic Chappell, 25, and their friend Tina Dominy, 24, also from Britain.

Wearing a blue pajama prison uniform and green rubber sandals, he told the court that the three "did not cry or beg, they died immediately."

## North holds its own Korean War 'victory' memorial

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea celebrated the 42nd anniversary of the end of the Korean War a day early Wednesday, with a call to Washington to replace the old cold war 1953 armistice agreement with a new peace treaty.

"The United States must discard its old policy of strength... to build confidence and put an end to its hostile relations with the DPRK (North Korea)," army Vice Marshall Kim Kwang-Jin said.

Marshal Kim's call, made at a "victory" ceremony in Pyongyang was reported by the North's mouthpiece Korea Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo.

It came as South Korean President Kim Young-Sam was in Washington for talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton on the future of the Korean peninsula and to officiate at the opening of a memorial to Korean War dead Thursday.

Officials here and in Washington say the possibility of a peace treaty in Korea — but one that involves the South and the North as the main signatories, not Washington and Pyongyang — will be high on the talks agenda.

Conspicuously absent from the victory ceremony in Pyongyang's Feb. 8 House of

Culture, according to KCNA, was the isolated Communist state's reclusive new leader Kim Jong-Il, son of Kim Il-Sung, whose troops invaded the South.

Instead, KCNA said, "Placed on the platform of the meeting place was a portrait of the Great Leader President Kim Il-Sung."

Also conspicuously absent from the KCNA dispatches were traditional references to "imperialist Americans" and to the thousands of Chinese "volunteers" who fought alongside North Korea during the 1950-53 Korean War.

The North's agency instead reported the arrival in Pyongyang Thursday of a U.S. delegation of experts, which it said would take part in a fourth round of discussions on the safe storage of some 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods.

North Korea froze its suspect nuclear weapons programme in November after the landmark but controversial accord, personally guaranteed by Mr. Clinton, reached in Geneva in October of 1994.

Under the accord Washington is obliged to match the steps of the freeze with fuel oil supplies and gradual trade and diplomatic ties. It has also reassured Seoul that it will not move ahead on the accord unless North-South Korean ties improve.

The armistice agreement — which created the four-mile-wide demilitarised zone that has divided the two Koreas ever since — was signed in the truce village of Panmunjom on July 27, 1953 by the U.S. commander of the United Nations troops, the north Korean army and the Chinese "volunteers."

The South Korean army, which wanted to fight on, did not sign.

North Korea has called for years for the truce to be replaced with a peace treaty, and stepped up its efforts since the collapse of the Soviet block by unceremoniously kicking neutral peace keepers out of the North.

Washington and Beijing, the two most influential powers on the peninsula, have both put their weight behind a peace treaty, but both have endorsed a South-North agreement, not a Pyongyang-Washington accord.

In Washington, South Korean President Kim kicked off a four-day state visit to Washington during which he will address a joint session of the U.S. Congress before meeting with President Clinton.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher welcomed Mr. Kim Tuesday at Blair House, the official guest house across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House. The reception was closed to reporters and held amid tight security.

"Christopher said this state visit has great significance and special meaning in light of the Korean War Memorial, which can cement the alliance between the ROK (Republic of Korea) and the United States," South Korean embassy spokesman Lin Byungtaik said.

Mr. Kim was expected to address a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress later Wednesday.

But the dedication Thursday of the Korean War Memorial will be the symbolic highlight of the four-day visit, recalling the 1950-53 war that forged the U.S.-South Korean alliance into a cold war fixture.

The discussions Thursday between Mr. Kim and Mr. Clinton will turn on strategies for engaging North Korea, which has frozen its existing nuclear programmes — suspected of being used to develop nuclear weapons — in return for new lightweight reactors.

Trade also will be high on the agenda of Mr. Kim talks in Washington, which is pressing Seoul for liberal economic reforms and greater access to its markets.

The visit also has drawn attention to blemishes on South Korea's human rights record since Mr. Kim took office in 1992.

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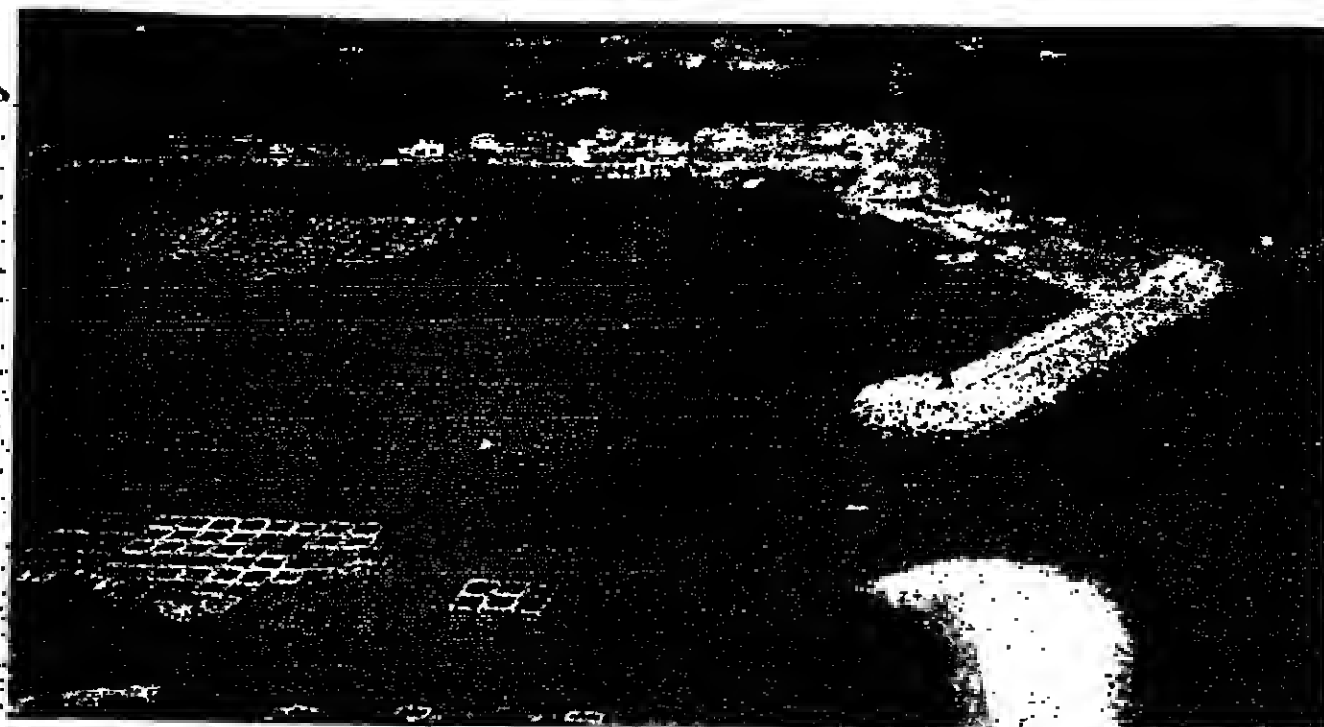
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Oil spilled from the burning oil tanker, the Sea Prince, drifts on the tide through fish and oyster farms on Soril Island, on the southern coast of South Korea, after the 140,000 tonne tanker ran aground when typhoon Faye hit, South Korea (AFP)

## Oil slick spreads; S. Korea typhoon damage rises

SEOUL (Agencies) — Despite cleanup efforts, a massive oil spill from a typhoon-damaged tanker continued to spread Wednesday off South Korea's pristine south coast. The death toll from typhoon Faye also rose to 21. Another 23 people were missing at sea and believed to have died in the worst storm to hit the Korean peninsula in 37 years. The oil slick has spread 60 kilometres along the coast, suffocating hundreds of thousands of prized fish in its wake. About 100 ships were working to create a 1,000-kilometre (600-mile) perimeter around the slick to stop its spread and soak up the damage. Shores which had been designated as an environmentally protected area have been blackened. Cleanup was expected to last more than a month. It was uncertain when the numerous fish farms, which largely ship to Japan, could return to normal. Maritime police said the slick is believed to be coming from the Cyprus-registered Sea Prince's fuel tanks. The 140,000-tonne oil tanker ran aground Sunday in stormy weather, and its engine caught fire Monday. Hoping to prevent further spills from the tanker's load of 97,000 tonnes of crude oil, police were seeking to transfer it to another carrier. They were also questioning the captain of the Sea Prince to determine the cause of the spill. The typhoon damaged more than 400 ships as it ripped through South Korea. It damaged more than 1,000 homes and left 230 people homeless, disaster headquarters said. South Korea Wednesday asked the International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) fund to make up for damage caused by the oil spill from the Cyprus-registered tanker, the Foreign Ministry said. The request for compensation was made through the South Korean embassy in London, the ministry said. The IOPC fund has dispatched an expert to survey the damage from oil leaked from the Sea Prince, it said.

## Major to test party popularity in by-election

LONDON (AFP) — For the first time since his reelection as leader of the Conservative Party, British Prime Minister John Major will Thursday test his party's popularity in a by-election in northern England. The election in the Linc.-borough and Saddleworth constituency, in rural Lancashire, was prompted by the death of the Conservative member of parliament (MP) Geoffrey Dickens last May. It will be the 14th by-election since the 1992 general elections. The Tories have lost all the previous ones and Thursday's poll is expected to be no exception. In 1992, Dickens scraped in with only a slender majority of 4,500 votes. The latest opinion polls have indicated that John Hudson, the Conservative Party candidate, will limp in third, with only 19 per cent of the vote, compared with 43 per cent for Chris Davies, the Liberal Democrat candidate, and 37 per cent for Phil Woolas, standing for Labour. If the polls are correct, the election will further weaken Mr. Major's party in parliament, leaving it with only 329 MPs out of 651 — a majority of three votes, not counting one deputy excluded from the party. But the Conservatives, who reelected Mr. Major as their leader earlier this month after he tendered his resignation, have refused to admit defeat. They have rallied party leaders to campaign for their candidate Hudson, to ensure he gets at least a third of the vote. On Tuesday Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine and Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke went to Lancashire to campaign for their candidate and portrayed the Labour Party leader Tony Blair as unfit to govern. Mr. Heseltine criticised Mr. Blair's past in a rousing speech at a public meeting saying that he had advocated British disarmament while lining up with "the mobs on the streets and the protest groups of the 1980s." Labour, he said, was "up, ited only by one thing, the thirst for power." His speech reflected the Tory fear of a Labour victory at Littleborough and Saddleworth explains the ferocity of the attack. If Labour were to win what is a traditionally Tory-voting constituency, with mainly middle class families, it would mean that Tony Blair is gaining ground over this part of the electorate. And it could provoke a sea-change in the next general elections in spring 1997. "I now see Labour as the party of small businesses and the self-employed," said Labour's shadow chancellor Gordon Brown in an interview in The Times Wednesday. A Liberal Democrat victory could more easily be interpreted by the Conservatives as a simple mid-term protest vote. With the Conservative candidate out of contention, the Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates have lost no time in exchanging insults and hitting below the belt. Labour election material accused Mr. Davies of being in favour of the legalisation of soft drugs. For their part, the Liberal Democrats have attacked Mr. Woolas for knowing nothing about local problems and having been parachuted in from London. Apart from the three main candidates, eight others from various parties and groupings are standing at the elections, the result of which will not be known before Friday morning.

## Muslim leader urges Ramos to be bold for peace

GENERAL SANTOS, Philippines (R) — Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari urged President Fidel Ramos Wednesday to act decisively in granting Filipino Muslims genuine autonomy in the south. Mr. Misuari, speaking at the start of the latest round of peace talks, said Mr. Ramos should not be afraid of conservative politicians opposed to Muslim self-rule in Mindanao and its adjacent islands, an area scarred by extremist violence. "Don't be afraid of the detractors of peace. Don't be afraid of their threat of impeachment. Don't be afraid of losing... even your job," he said. Mr. Ramos should be bold because the entire people of Mindanao, both Christians and Muslims, yearned for peace, Mr. Misuari told the opening session of peace talks brokered by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). The southern city of General Santos was the site of an attack in April 1993 when suspected Abu Sayyaf extremists killed four people and injured 40 in a bombing at a department store. The talks were being held in a hotel some 500 metres from the bomb site. Abu Sayyaf was also blamed for a far bloodier attack on the town of Ipi in April in which 53 people, mainly unarmed civilians, were killed. Mr. Misuari, chief of the mainstream Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), and government officials say they fear increased extremist violence if the talks failed to produce agreement. "If there is no genuine autonomy, the solution to this problem will not be found," Mr. Misuari said. The region has a limited degree of autonomy but the MNLF says it is not enough. It says a genuinely autonomous government should have control over security and natural resources and the region should have its own legal system. The main sticking point is Manila's insistence that any plan for a new autonomous government must be subject to a region-wide plebiscite. Chief government negotiator Manuel Yan reaffirmed Manila's commitment to a referendum. "The plebiscite is not negotiable," he told Reuters. The MNLF rejects a plebiscite, fearing that any plan for increased Muslim autonomy in the south would be rejected by the Christian majority. Although the country's five million Muslims regard the south as their ancestral homeland, they are outnumbered by Christians who have migrated from other parts of the Philippines. The country has a total population of 65 million people, most of whom are Roman Catholics. Indonesian Ambassador Hassan Wirajuda, who is chairing the talks, said he hoped the meeting would be fruitful. "We do not have forever to deliberate these issues," he said. "What we need is the will and the goodwill. If we have both we will move forward." More than 50,000 people were killed at the height of an MNLF-led revolt in the 1970s.

## Marshall Islands accuses U.S. of nuclear cover-up

MAJUO (AFP) — A cover-up by the United States of vital nuclear test documents is preventing the world from learning the truth behind American nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands and radiation studies they conducted on islanders, a top government official here said Wednesday. The U.S. Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments wraps up its final investigation Friday and will submit a report to President Bill Clinton. The government here wants more U.S. aid and compensation to deal with islanders' numerous health problems it says were caused by nuclear tests and scientific tests on people here. The U.S. conducted 23 nuclear tests on Bikini Island during the 1950s and 60s. But Marshall Islands Senator Tony DeBrum said Wednesday the latest indications from the presidential panel were not encouraging. A former foreign minister and chief nuclear compensation negotiator Sen. DeBrum said the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and other agencies had only selectively released documents on the Marshalls. However, the U.S. charge d'affaires, Tom Murphy, said Wednesday the U.S. has made a firm commitment "to release all appropriate documents on the Bravo period," a reference to the 15-megaton Bravo hydrogen bomb test of 1954. He said the release of documents was an ongoing process. Thirty boxes of test-related documents have been released so far. Bravo dumped radioactive fallout on dozens of islands in the Marshalls. Recently released documents show the U.S. knew winds were blowing towards inhabited islands but exploded the bomb anyway and covered up sensitive weather report predictions prior to the Bravo test about possible fallout patterns. It allowed islanders to return to highly radioactive environments while claiming the islands were safe, the documents show. Sen. DeBrum said a draft report prepared by the Clinton panel three weeks ago included a chapter on the Marshalls. While stopping short of saying the U.S. deliberately experimented on islanders, it included observations agreeing with a current Marshall's government view that islanders were used to study the effect of radiation on people. But the revised draft that came back last week deleted the Marshalls' chapter and most references to the Mar-

## French experts hit back at anti-nuclear critics

MURUROA, French Polynesia (AFP) — France Wednesday hit back at criticism of its planned new nuclear tests with military experts providing a detailed logistic justification of the move. "Groundless accusations have been made," said General Paul Verice, director of the French centre for nuclear testing on Mururoa, where journalists have been allowed for the first time since France ordered a moratorium on nuclear testing in 1992. "There has been nothing but this noise ever since the decision was made to resume testing," he said of President Jacques Chirac's announcement that between six and eight test blasts would be exploded between September and next May. Mr. Chirac's announcement has set off a storm of protest from other Pacific nations and a host of environmental groups. The Greenpeace flagship Rainbow Warrior II was boarded by French commandos this month to stop it reaching the Mururoa base. Opponents say France's tests are a risk to the environment. Clearly angered by the criticism, Gen. Verice said: "These shameful untruths are constantly trotted out... it is disinformation." He accused governments not only in the region, but also in Europe, of pursuing a political agenda in trying to curry favour among their own parties, as well as among ecological groups. "We are in the middle of the biggest desert on the planet," he said, pointing out that it took 34 hours to get to Paris from Mururoa by plane, and that Europe was, over three weeks' sailing away. "New Zealand, which considers Mururoa as its back garden, is 4,740 kilometres (2,943 miles) away," he added. Gen. Verice said the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would soon be releasing the findings of tests conducted by seven, mostly foreign laboratories. France has consistently said the explosions, which take place several hundred metres below the atoll lagoons, have no radioactive impact on water or air in the area. Gen. Verice also refuted the idea that France's nuclear exercise could touch off nuclear proliferation among other countries. "Those powers in the world that want to proliferate will do so without testing," he said. An official of France's Commission for Atomic Energy (CEA) also explained that the tests would be France's only way of guaranteeing the future of the French nuclear deterrent. The next generation of nuclear warheads, code-named TN-75, could only become operational if tested under real, not simulated conditions, according to Jacques Bouchard, military director of the CEA. Mr. Bouchard said the first test would be a trial of the 150 kilotonne TN-75 warhead (ten times the force of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima), fitted to new M-45 launch missile, designed for submarine launch. Although a "certain num-

## One killed, 34 injured in Kashmir bombing

JAMMU, India (Agencies) — A Hindu pilgrim was killed and 34 other people injured when a bomb suspected to have been planted by Muslim separatists rocked the Kashmir winter capital Wednesday, officials said. The Indian authorities said meanwhile that snow and rain were hampering an army search for five Western tourists abducted by Muslim guerrillas in the strife-torn northern Indian state of Kashmir. A police spokesman said a 35-year-old Hindu holy man, or sadhu, died in hospital of burns suffered in the bomb blast outside a bank. Hospital sources said a woman and another Hindu holy man who had come to Jammu to take part in a Hindu pilgrimage scheduled to start Aug. 1 were in critical condition. Police said the bomb, which exploded around 10:15 a.m. (0445 GMT), had been hidden in a scooter taxi parked outside a branch of the Central Bank of India and within sight of a police station and the government secretariat. The bank manager and several other employees were among the 35 people injured, hospital sources said. The two injured Hindu holy men were among a group of about 100 sadhus gathered at a nearby temple. Police suspect the attack, the second bombing here in a week, was carried out by Muslim militants seeking to end Indian rule over Kashmir. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast. A hardline Muslim separatist group, the Harkat-ul-Ansar, which has pledged to prevent the annual Hindu pilgrimage, claimed responsibility for the July 20 bomb blast here which left 20 people dead and 60 injured. A crowd of about 5,000 people showered a police station with stones and bricks following the bombing to demand better security and set fire to several police vehicles, witnesses said. Police said six people suffered slight injuries, including three policemen. Police fired around 50 tear gas shells to disperse the angry mob as tension shot up in this predominantly-Hindu city of nearly 700,000 people in southern Kashmir. Shops shut down and residents rushed home. The Indian authorities believe the bombings and the kidnapping may be linked in the Harkat-ul-Ansar's efforts to disrupt the annual pilgrimage to a shrine in the Kashmir Himalayas. A Muslim separatist campaign in Kashmir has left more than 12,000 people dead in India's only Muslim-majority state since 1989. Most of the violence has been confined so far to the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley. Indian officials in the Kashmir summer capital Srinagar said meanwhile that snow and heavy rains were hampering the Indian army's search for five Western tourists held by the Muslim separatist group Al Farah. Indian troops, who have extended the search for the hostages in southern Kashmir from the central mountains where they were kidnapped, were having to battle deteriorating weather conditions, the officials said. "The mountains are becoming slippery and muddy and streams are overflowing because of the continuous rain for the past seven days," a Kashmir government official said. "It is almost impossible for us to move in these conditions," senior army officer added. He expressed concern for the safety of the hostages because of the drop in temperature and the danger of landslides and mudslides from the heavy rains. Britons Paul Wells and Keith Nangan and American Donald Hutchings were kidnapped in July 4 while trekking near the mountain resort of Pahalgam, 100 kilometres east of Srinagar. German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Ostro were seized in the same area four days later. Al Farah, which Indian officials believe may actually be Harkat-ul-Ansar, has demanded the release of 21 imprisoned Muslim militants in exchange for the freedom of the hostages and threatened to kill them if the demand is not met, said the Indian authorities. The Indian authorities have ruled out freeing any imprisoned militants. Kashmiri leaders said Wednesday they were trying to get in touch with guerrillas holding five Western hostages, so far without success. The head of the All-Party Hurriyat (freedom) Conference, a separatist umbrella organisation of some 30 political, social and religious groups, said all efforts to set in touch with the militants had failed. "We have tried to find their whereabouts. We have not been successful in getting any reliable clues," OMAR Farooq told Reuters in an interview. The previously-unknown Al Farah group says it is holding the hostages. "Diplomats are in touch with us and we are also trying. It is a unique kidnapping case. In all the earlier cases, the militants got in direct touch or at least people heard of them," said Mr. Farooq, the Mirwaiz, or hereditary chief priest of the Muslim Kashmir Valley.

## Russian Electoral Committee rules out vote fix

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's Central Electoral Commission Wednesday dismissed claims that biased officials could fix December parliamentary elections, but suspicious deputies prepared to tighten supervision. Commission head Nikolai Ryabov told a news conference that the watchdogs for the Dec. 17 vote were "openness and transparency." The chances of manipulation by unscrupulous regional bosses were slim, he said. "There might be no fewer than 40-45 people (at each polling station) observing how the commission works," he said. "That is probably enough." Many Russian State Duma (lower house) deputies have alleged tampering with results of the previous 1993 parliamentary elections and voiced distrust of the so-called "party of power." Some opposition deputies believe President Boris Yeltsin, whose popularity has plummeted, and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin might be conspiring to hold onto power or to make sure the reins are taken over by the right people. Mr. Chernomyrdin is leader of the centre-right Out Home Is Russia bloc competing for seats in the new legislature, which Mr. Yeltsin wants to be purged of extremists. "We do not trust executive power," nationalist deputy and film-maker Stanislav Govorukhin told the Versil current affairs programme on public Russian Television. "There are no grounds to trust the Central Electoral Commission... The history of falsification of the previous (December 1993) election is undeniable," he said. An independent analyst told Versil that up to 20 per cent of this year's vote could be falsified, although human error could account for some of this. The Electoral Commission had to be completely independent of local administrations, said Dmitry Oslansky, head of the Centre for Strategic Analysis and Forecasts.

## Chernomyrdin appoints new Russian press chief

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin removed a liberal, Sergei Gryznuv, as head of the State Committee on the Press Wednesday and installed a Soviet-era official in his place. An order issued by Mr. Chernomyrdin replaced Mr. Gryznuv with Ivan Laptev, former chief editor of the Izvestia newspaper and a prominent parliamentarian in the dying days of the Soviet Union. The committee is a government agency with the rights of a ministry and is mostly responsible for state subsidies to the press and its gradual privatisation. Its importance could increase in the run-up to a parliamentary election scheduled for Dec. 17 and presidential polls expected next June. Mr. Gryznuv was appointed to head the committee last November, replacing previous head Boris Mironov who was accused by liberals of holding ultra-nationalist views. Mr. Gryznuv has criticised Coverage by the official press on

Japanese parliament is expected to adopt a resolution — sponsored by the ruling coalition to which the Socialists belong — against nuclear testing by both China and France. The resolution will say that "Japan, the only country to be a victim of the atomic bomb," protests against both countries' tests as "intolerable acts," the Jiji news agency reported.

Protests have swelled worldwide since France announced that it would begin a series of eight tests at Mururoa Atoll.

On Wednesday a five-page letter of protest signed by about 30 non-government organisations in Malaysia was handed to the French press attache in Kuala Lumpur. A leader of the Malaysian Action Front, which coordinated the letter, told AFP it would support a boycott on French imports.

In Wellington, New Zealand defence officials said Wednesday they have put off deciding on a \$19-million dollar (\$12 million) contract to buy portable surface-to-air missile systems because the best option is made by a French company.

The purchase process is "on ice," Lieutenant General Tony Birks told a select parliamentary committee on foreign affairs and defence. The decision will be delayed "until there is no difficulty with it," a spokesman from the defence ministry said, implying the purchase will not proceed until France ends its planned series of nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

In early August the

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## Jordan Times

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## Another opportunity missed

**YET ANOTHER** deadline is missed in Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, and Israel once again seems to be behind the failure to reach agreement on expanding self-rule in the occupied West Bank on the target date.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has repeatedly stressed that deadlines are not sacred. So procrastination has become a negotiating habit of Israeli delegates to the talks with the Palestinians. Israel is wrong to think that it can afford to stall the negotiations. Accelerating the implementation of the deals it has reached with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is as essential to the Israelis as it is to the Palestinians and to all those who have ventured to take the Jewish state at its word. The Israelis, despite their pain at what happened Monday, can gain nothing from frustrating hope held by the Palestinians about eventual success of the peace efforts. Greater stubbornness by Israel would have a negative effect on public perceptions by the Palestinians and the Arabs of the whole process. Arab support for peace will fade if the Israelis remain captive to their arrogance or concept of total security in the absence of full peace.

What the Palestinians are demanding in their current talks with Israel are rights that Israel has previously recognised. It thus defies logic to see Israel retreat from its earlier pledges and expect the Palestinians, who have already made as many compromises as they could, to accept new hardline positions on continuous basis. The redeployment of Israeli troops in population centres in the West Bank and the holding of Palestinian elections are essential requirements for the success of the negotiations.

For its own sake, Israel must not allow its talks with the Palestinians to fail. The opportunity at hand is a golden one that should not be wasted. If Mr. Rabin does not believe that dates are sacred, he has to prove that his belief in peace is. That he can do by fulfilling the promises his government and country has made to the Palestinians and in the process salvage the current talks before they become yet another proof of Israel's obstinacy.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ONE CANNOT possibly ignore the fact that the bus explosion at Ramat Gan in Israel was meant to coincide with and directed against, the conclusion of a final agreement between Israel and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) on second phase of the Israeli army's redeployment in the West Bank, said Mahmoud Rimawi in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday. One cannot also ignore the fact that such an attack is bound to bring joy to strengthen the position of the extreme rightist elements in Israel, who oppose the deal, said the writer. Expressing regret that Palestinian youth are being sacrificed in order to prolong the suffering of the Palestinian people, the writer said that the bombing of the bus will make it more difficult for the Palestinian negotiators to speed up the freedom of the Palestinian people and to end the occupation. The bus attack will further drive the extremist elements in Israel towards more adamant positions and block the path before a settlement said the writer. He said the killing of a few Israelis cannot be more important than the end of occupation, and can by no means speed up the restoration of the Palestinians' rights.

A WRITER in Al Dustour echoed a call by former health minister Zuhair Mahas, who leads a national campaign to end the habit of smoking in Jordan. Every year six out of every 1,000 citizens in the Kingdom die as a direct result of smoking, which causes untold miseries to many others in the form of chronic diseases, said Mousa Kilani, quoting Dr. Mahas in a lecture at the Rotary club. Giving figures about the smokers and smoking in Jordan, the writer said in 1994 Jordanians burnt four billion Jordanian-made cigarettes in addition 44 million foreign-made cigarettes imported by the Ministry of Supply for JD 1 million. Saying that smoking has been proved to be the main factor of polluting the atmosphere, the writer said that all statistics indicate that this pollutant is also responsible for most cases of lung cancer. He said that the cost of treating people suffering from smoke-related disease was estimated at JD 175 million, many times more than the amount collected by the government in fees for tobacco production and cigarette manufacturing.

## The View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdonbeh

## Will the Western powers redeem themselves in Bosnia?

ONE CANNOT write about the present situation in Bosnia, it seems, without an apology. In light of the horrible tragedy, words seem both hollow and pointless. And so do feelings of sympathy. What good are words and feelings to a person who has been or is being massacred, tortured, raped, starved, or ruthlessly abandoned? What is required is action. Deeds and effective measures, not words, not feelings of sorrow or condemnation, not meetings, not talk shows, not promises and not threats.

There is no doubt, of course, that the efforts that have been exerted at the individual, group and international level are appreciated, at times quite highly. Those individuals, groups and government officials of several countries who have donated money to the Bosnian cause, volunteered to visit Bosnia and contribute in whatever way they can (psychologically, medically, etc.) and assisted the Bosnian people and government cannot and must not be denied recognition. And so is the case with the countries which hosted Bosnian refugees and cared for the sick and the injured (and Jordan is one of those countries). But one does also appreciate the role of the U.N. and the countries which have volunteered protection forces, even though the performance of the U.N. and the said forces have not been as effective as one would want it to be, despite the acts of fear and the sacrifices that have been, and are being, made.

All of this must certainly be asserted and recognised. Nevertheless, one cannot but feel that Bosnia has been largely neglected and wronged by the international community. Neglected because the attention Bosnia has gotten so far is too minimal to be of any serious consequence. The Western powers have been moving too slowly, too halfheartedly and too uncommittedly to make the desired impact. Their enthusiasm for addressing the injustice against Bosnia is no way near even one tenth of the enthusiasm they showed during the Gulf war (there is a great deal of truth, it would seem, in the saying that oil is more important — much more important — than human rights). Not much, of course, can be expected at this point in history from the Islamic World: it is too weak, too fragmented and too incapacitated to do something for the Bosnian brothers and sisters.

But Bosnia is also wronged because the consequences of the neglect (and the arms embargo) are quite costly. In fact they are horrendous. Let's remember that when we are talking about the "tragedy" in Bosnia, we are not talking about a mere "violation" of human rights, about a series of attacks by a mindless and vicious enemy, about casualties of war and refugees, about occupation of land. No. We are talking about much more. We are talking about mass massacres, mass killings, mass bloodshed, mass rape. We are talking about an enemy who is determined to wipe out hundreds of thousands of people. We are talking about genocide. The so-called "ethnic cleansing" is one of the most barbarous, inhuman and savage acts committed in the history of humanity. And humanity is silent, reticent and shamefully aloof or lukewarm.

Which makes you wonder, think and ponder. What have we inhabitants of the 20th century and soon the 21st, learned from history? What has our civilisation, we the enlightened peoples and governments of today, actually achieved by way of ensuring life, liberty and happiness to fellow-man? (We can do without happiness, but let there be at least life and liberty). Fine, the Serb generals are crazy, lunatics and criminals. No matter what we do, there will be crazy people, lunatics and criminals among us. This unfortunate fact, we cannot help. Fine again, O.K., no problem. This is something we are capable of understanding. But what are we supposed to do when these crazy people, lunatics and criminals are let loose? What has our civilisation done to protect the innocent fellow man against the acts of aggression and murder on part of the sick among us? If our civilisation cannot, with all its pretence and pretentiousness, guarantee our fellow human beings safe havens and safety (forget prosperity and happiness), let's at least show some real concern and take some real measures to protect human beings against annihilation and destruction. We owe Bosnia that much.

The eyes of the world are, of course, focused on the Western powers. Who else has the power and will to act,

and act effectively? The Islamic World of today, which bears a special responsibility towards Bosnia, is impotent, as we have just said. So it must be the Western powers. They are the custodians of the world, the captains of the ship, and they can do the job. But they also bear a moral responsibility. Whether they like it or not the aggressor is European or Western, and Bosnia is thus a European problem. The acts of the Serb generals do not reflect well on the European civilisation, no less so than the acts of the colonialist grandfathers, of Napoleon, of Hitler, and so on and so forth. There is a genuine need, I believe, for the West to seem itself in Bosnia. The European devil is on the loose in Serbia, and the European angel must act fast. Otherwise, neither Beowulf, nor King Arthur, nor George Washington, nor Abraham Lincoln, nor John Wayne, nor Sylvester Stallone makes sense.

Let it be affirmed here that the Western countries do condemn the acts of the Serbs. I have not yet heard anyone, a normal citizen or a person of official capacity, who condones the acts of the Serbs. The left condemns, and the right condemns; the liberals as well as the conservatives. Even Russia, we are told, is in its heart of hearts against the Serb acts; the reason it has stood by the Serbs, we are told, is its former friendship and alliance. The point here is, no one approves of what the Serbs are doing to the Bosnians.

So why the delay, the procrastination and the aloofness? Many reasons, obviously. Ultimately, it may be that Bosnia is not really that important. Had there been oil in it, had there been a cold war between the West and the Russia, Bosnia might have been urgently helped. But there are other reasons. Some countries do not relish the idea of sending their boys to die in Bosnia, some do not want to get too involved, some think their involvement may worsen things. But some reasons have to do with internal politics in the Western countries themselves: many decision-makers are afraid to take certain steps because of their political opponents who are waiting for a "mistake" or a "miscalculation" to be committed.

The debate goes on forever, and for every logic there is counter logic, and you do not know where the truth lies anymore. Take the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia. Many people, including the Bosnian themselves, want the embargo lifted. This is also the position of many Republicans in America. But many others oppose it. It is not a good idea, they tell you. Why? Because it means inevitably more Western involvement, it means more bloodshed, it means the Bosnians themselves will be hurt, it means we have not really solved the problem, etc. Frankly speaking, one does not know what to believe when one listens to experts and counter experts. God knows when something will be done about Bosnia, something effective and everlasting.

A bit of good news seems to be emerging, however. As a result of the rage and the shamelessness of the Serb generals, the Western powers seem determined now to do something "decisive" and attacks on some U.N.-declared "safe areas" will be met by severe counterattacks. The idea is to protect what has remained of Bosnia. Well, this is certainly better than no action, and the tough rhetoric is, somewhat cheering.

Many people, however, believe that the Western powers need to do a lot more than this. What is required is one decisive and final blow to the Serb army, a blow which breaks its backbone once and for all. This can be achieved through massive air-strikes. The European countries do not need to go to war with the Serbs, neither does the U.S., for the mission can be achieved through air-power. Such a fatal blow, many people believe, will not only put an end to Serb brutality and arrogance but will encourage the Serbs to sit down with the Bosnians and negotiate in good faith a lasting settlement.

The Western powers, many believe, have procrastinated for a long time. The costs have been high, too high to contemplate. Before any more tragedies occur in Bosnia, the Western powers are called upon to act now and speedily. Enough procrastination, enough top-sided logic, enough timidity and enough pussyfooting. Bosnia needs to be saved as much as the West needs to be redeemed, and without delay.

## Japan election seen as step to two-party politics

By Sebastian Moffett

Reuter

TOKYO — Tomiichi Murayama has vowed to battle on as prime minister after his socialist flopped in Japanese elections, but analysts say he and his party could soon fade away.

While Mr. Murayama concentrates on holding his awkward coalition together, the central message of the polls was that Japan may be moving towards politics centred on two large, conservative parties, they said.

The elections were for half of Japan's upper house, which has limited powers and cannot choose the prime minister.

But being the first national poll for two years, it was billed as an unofficial referendum on the coalition, comprising the socialists, the Conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the tiny Sakigake Party.

Mr. Murayama lost it, though not badly enough to make it impossible to carry on.

However, the clear thumbs-down he received, and a record low turnout that indicated how weary the Japanese are of their politicians, prompted all the nation's major newspapers to call for a lower house general election.

Business leaders also want general elections, in the hope of bringing an end to revolving-door governments and bewildering shifts in alliances over the past two years.

The most important task is to sort out political confusion, and to do that



Tomiichi Murayama

Japan needs a lower house election soon," said a senior official of the Japan Federation of Economic Organisations, the country's most powerful business lobby group, known as Keidanren in Japanese.

"If we have to accept short-term turmoil to achieve stability then so be it."

The victor on Sunday, albeit a qualified victor, was the New Frontier Party (NFP, or Shinshintou) which was formed in December out of an alliance of nine political groups — LDP splinter groups and a Buddhist-backed party.

lost this role after forming the present coalition.

"In terms of Japanese politics, this election was an important step in the creation of a shinshintou-LDP dominated political framework," said Keith Henry, Japan programme research associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Party leader Toshiki Kaifu, a former LDP prime minister, said that Mr. Murayama's coalition partners should dump the prime minister and his party.

"I can't understand why they say they're going to carry on supporting a prime minister who is head of the party that lost the most seats," he told reporters on Monday. "The NFP is going to deal with the Murayama cabinet harshly. We don't fear and we don't make light of a general election."

That said, the strong showing amid a record-low turnout could have been in large part due to organised voting by members of the Soka Gakkai Buddhist sect, which backs one of the old parties that merged to form the NFP.

An ironic effect of the election could be to make a quick general election, not required until 1997, less likely rather than more, as the ruling parties, particularly the LDP, start to fear a galvanised opposition.

In the weeks and months ahead, the party will be licking its wounds and trying to figure out how to fend off the onslaught of an emboldened NFP," said John Neuffer, senior research fellow at Mitsui Marine Research Institute.

## When all options are dangerous, choose the honourable one

By Robert Kagan

WASHINGTON — The Bosnian Serbs are fairly prudent. They have launched no attacks without first trying to gauge the American and allied response. When they find weakness, they press forward; when they meet resistance, they stop and wait.

The Serbs let the U.N. hostages go in June because they feared that NATO was about to strengthen its forces in Bosnia. They watched to see when the new European rapid reaction force would become operational. When it became clear that Europe was moving slowly and that the force might not be very potent, they moved on Srebrenica and now Zepa.

Every time the international community has moved towards a more aggressive stance, the Serbs have tried to calm things down. For all the West's timidity, the Serbs still fear that the West will be provoked into using its military power against them.

A decision by Presidents Bill Clinton and Jacques Chirac to carry out a ground and air campaign against the Serbs, both in Bosnia and in Serbia, would bring the Serbs back to the negotiating table to take what they can get while they can get it.

For such a plan to work, the threat would have to be real. Washington would have to prove to the Serbs that, in addition to inflicting heavy casualties, the United States was prepared to take such risk. But can risks be avoided now under any circumstances, defensive or offensive?

The Pentagon has developed a plan to evacuate the U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia that, if carried out, would require the withdrawal of 10,000 American troops, in a 60,000-troop multinational force. If the operation went smoothly, the cost of pulling out the peacekeepers might be limited to a few casualties and millions of dollars. This would approximate the price of U.S. withdrawal from Somalia.

But officials worry about hostile action and obstacle that could pin down an American force for six months.

Suppose Bosnian Serbs

fired on the multinational force to prevent the removal of millions of dollars in NATO weapons or to cripple the weapons. Suppose Bosnian Muslim troops provoked clashes with the Serbs that would slow or stop the withdrawal of the 22,500 United Nations peacekeepers. Suppose Bosnian Muslim refugees, especially women and children, lay down in front of retreating tanks and trucks.

Both Republicans and Democrats comfort themselves that if U.N. force were removed and the arms embargo lifted, the Muslims would be able to defend themselves with weapons that would flow in. But it would take weeks, if not months, for enough to reach Bosnia to change the balance of power. Where would the Bosnian train in siege-free conditions? Who would protect Sarajevo?

Surely the Serbs would launch an all-out offensive to overrun as much of Bosnia as they could, including Sarajevo, before the battlefield balance shifted. There is also the possibility that Serbia might join them in a final offensive once NATO abandoned the field.

Yet leading Republicans favour lifting the arms embargo and leaving Bosnia. The Clinton administration could be driven towards that position, because both parties fear asking the American people and armed forces to make sacrifices on behalf of Europe.

Both U.S. parties have assumed that keeping America out of Bosnia would be cost-free. Since that notion has been exploded, and even the pull-out might bog down American troops in warfare, a question arises: If we are going to risk the lives of our troops in retreat, why not do so to restore American credibility and leadership, and to rescue a people from further slaughter?

The Pentagon has made clear that there are dangers no matter what path the United States takes. The Clinton administration should reconsider the relative risks involved in more aggressive action, and be prepared to take them.

The writer, a State Department official in the Reagan administration, contributed this comment to The New York Times.

## LETTERS

### 'A triumph for us'

To the Editor:

I ENTIRELY endorse the Jordan Times' editorial (July 13-14) congratulating the several successful women candidates on their victories in Jordan's recent municipal elections.

Yet I find the title chosen for the article to be very puzzling: "Another triumph for them." Those words fly in the face of everything that the Jordan Times was trying to say about the need for women to be considered an integral part of society. By referring to "them," the Jordan Times simply reinforces the entrenched idea that women are outsiders to be commented on from the comfortable and patronising perspective of the "male-dominated society."

We must remember that a female mayor or member of Parliament does not represent only women, but represents all her constituents in the same way that a male is supposed to. Surely, therefore, if the Jordan Times is serious about what it says, then it would have declared the advance of women in the elections to be "a triumph for us," for all of us.

Ali Abunimah,  
Amman.

### Monumental hypocrisy

To the Editor:

THE BOSNIAN tragedy is further perpetrated and while the Serbs massacre and rape the Bosnians at will, the Western powers watch on, like shy schoolgirls.

When oil interests were at stake in the Gulf, the Western alliance destroyed Iraq's economic and military infrastructure from the air and very effectively. They have also kept five years over obviously relatively minor details concerning the elimination of the weapons of mass-destruction. Is it not quite clear that oil is more important than people, especially if they are the Muslims of Bosnia?

History will at least record this monumental hypocrisy.

Omar Abbas,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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# Weekender

July 27, 1995

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Published Every Thursday

## SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

### When the choice is yours, it can be tougher than you think

High profile ambassadorial postings are opening up in Paris, Ottawa, Bonn and at the U.N. Back to base is Muatassem Bilbesi after his term in the French Republic. The vacancy is said to be open to former Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan if he wishes to make Paris his new base, but sources say Dr. Adwan has his eye on the "Big Apple" and the seat vacated by Ambassador Adnan Abu Odeh at the United Nations. Dr. Adwan, a former ambassador to Madrid and Moscow and a delegate on the then joint Jordanian-Palestinian team to the 1991 Middle East peace conference, had said he would rather spend time at his Jordan Valley farm after his term as minister ended with the resignation of Dr. Abdul Salam Majali's cabinet in January this year. But it appears that Dr. Adwan is well-rested and ready to take on the rigours of diplomacy once again, whether in "the city of light" or next to the East River. If Dr. Adwan does opt for and succeeds in a bid for New York, sources say that former Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Hassan, a career diplomat who served as envoy to Cairo and Brussels and was also a member of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks with Israel, may be dispatched to Paris. In the change from the MoJoli government to that of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Mr. Hassan was tipped to become labour minister, and when that did not materialise, he apparently was promised an important posting elsewhere, even though he himself did not appear to be certain at the time. Meanwhile, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nayef Hadid has been travelling the Mideast again, most recently to Lebanon and Syria. When he returned from a trip to Morocco and Tunisia last month, he denied that he was checking on either as the venue of his next assignment. But sources insist he is in line for a move, and that the cards say it will be Rabat. Across the Atlantic, the Ottawa seat being vacated by Nasouh MoJoli, is more than likely to be taken by Samir Khalifeh who served as ambassador in Athens and more recently to Bonn. As a political appointee, Mr. MoJoli will have to be re-posted abroad if he is to continue with the foreign ministry. That leaves the slot in the German capital open. And, the latest we heard is that Chief of Protocol at the ministry, Samir Masarweh, has actually been appointed ambassador-designate to Rome to replace Hassan Abu Nimah, who, as well, no doubt must have been promised an important embassy or mission.

**Still keeping tabs:** In a flash update, in case you may have thought you heard the last of them, a change, over and above those earlier reported in the Prime Minister's office, this week included the taking in of Nabil Sweiss. Mr. Sweiss, an engineer who has been the head of international cooperation and planning, a mammoth task over at the Ministry of Planning, will more than likely have plenty to offer at the Prime Ministry before he moves to the less demanding venues of retirement. Adviser Mohammad Abu Shaqra also makes the news as his secondment to 'Al Ol Boy' Foundation has been renewed.

**What's in a name?** There is another career diplomat making news — about news, that is. Having resigned from Al Dastour Arabic daily after five years as responsible chief editor, Musa Keilani has obtained a license to publish a "sekky newspaper" which he will call Al Urdun (Jordan). Another newspaper by the same name went out of circulation nearly 13 years ago when its chief editor, Khalil Nassr, passed away. By law, Dr. Keilani explains, if a newspaper has not printed in more than 10 years, the license is open to application by other interested parties. Dr. Keilani says the Kingdom "needs a good paper to carry the name and message of Jordan," rather than the one-sided reports of "the radical left and the rigid right," and the tabloids which "address sexual instincts by writing about scandals, rapes,

**Great expectations**  
HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan shared a proud moment this week with Nadine Farah who obtained a 45 point International Baccalaureate Diploma — a perfect score and the only one among all 3,632 diploma candidates worldwide. A recent graduate of the Amman Baccalaureate School (ABS), Nadine and her classmates were among the diploma candidates from 437 schools in 43 countries around the world. Her perfect score was achieved in all eight components of a very demanding programme, and students with a 40-point diploma and even less gain admission into universities of their choice at the most prestigious universities. Princess Sarvath, who is chairwoman of the ABS Board of Trustees, received Nadine, her parents, members of the academic subcommittee of the Amman Baccalaureate School Board of Trustees Dr. Victor Bilal, Mr. Randa Kassar and Mrs. Huda Al Adia who is also the International Baccalaureate regional representative for the Middle East, and Mrs. Mary Tudor, head of the senior school and Mr. Adam Merle, the IB coordinator at the ABS, to congratulate Nadine and all who made a difference in her life. Nadine has been accepted to study medicine at Cambridge University.

violence and sex, which they count on for their promotion." The 55-year-old Dr. Keilani says he had to quit Al Dastour because the Press and Publications Law forbids a chief editor of one paper to also be chief editor of another (in fact a chief editor is forbidden from holding any other professional position related or unrelated to the publication for which he/she works). Now free of that hindrance, Dr. Keilani says, "My paper will be an independent, serious and moderate paper carrying a lot of political analysis and pluralistic points of view — a paper which a reader can buy and take home to his family and daughters to read rather than tossing it away before going home." A varied background in media and diplomacy — he served as director of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, from 1972-1974 during the government of Zeid Rifai, and as Director of Jordan Radio from 1974-1976 — should serve Dr. Keilani well. Dr. Keilani had served as ambassador twice: in Bahrain in the 70s and in Sudan in the early 80s.

**A new attitude:** Readers may recall when we reprinted part of a letter to the editor late last year from one Al Ghazarian who was rather irritated with the cancelling of his young daughters' television programme "Da Beat's On," way before Mr. Nasser Joudeh took over the reins of JTV. That item caused sufficient and unexpected controversy — what with some readers quite pleased and others so upset that outside parties were nearly called in for a "sulha." Well, cancel the sulha, and let us celebrate, for our mystery citizen has written again, but this time with a different tone and attitude. In his new letter, he says "Let the record show that Al Ghazarian is finally happy." Here are a few choice excerpts: "I don't wish to downgrade or underestimate anybody, but Mr. Nasser Joudeh is by all means the saviour for whom JTV was looking for many years. His daring approach and wise decision making took JTV on a 180 degree spin. I salute Mr. Joudeh and the newly 'reincarnated' staff of JTV for their continuous efforts to bring JTV to the front lines. I do have two complaints however. First, I blame Mr. Joudeh for keeping me awake every night of the week to watch the endless run of interesting movies and shows. Second, are you going to do something about 'Da Beat's On'? After all, you have been doing a superb job so far. (The last two sentences came from my daughters, honestly)."

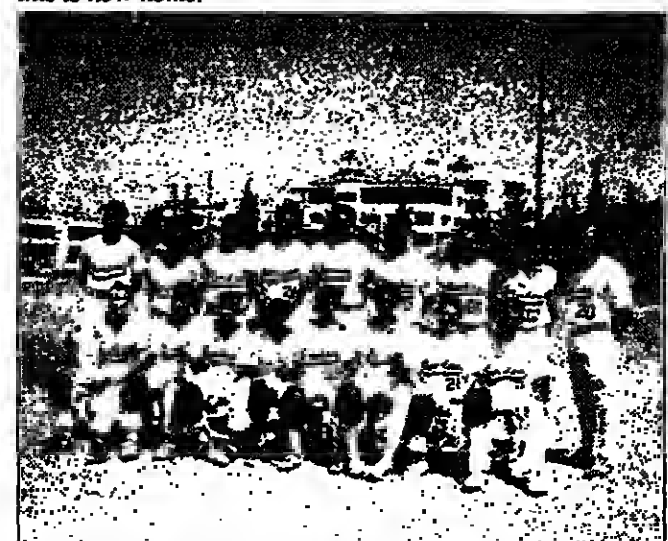
**En hora buena!** No doubt recognised for her superb job as logistics administrator and accounting officer is Camino Arroyo who has been promoted to Director of the Instituto Cervantes succeeding Juan Manuel Casado who left Monday for Madrid to await his new assignment. Mr. Casado was coordinating the work of the Instituto Cervantes in the region. Ms. Arroyo, a law graduate of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, will take on the reigns of the Jordan branch as a full-fledged entity of the Spanish cultural establishment. Hand-picked by the president of the institute, who no doubt heard how impressed King Juan Carlos was with the facilities at the institute when he visited Jordan last year, Ms. Arroyo (28), mother of two and married to Deputy Chief of Mission of the Spanish Embassy Gustavo de Aristegui, will be the fourth highest ranking diplomat at the embassy in Amman. She said the goal of the Instituto Cervantes worldwide is to be more aggressive in attracting intercultural exchange, particularly through the teaching of Spanish to citizens of the host countries, not simply as a language but as an extension of cultural links with the Spanish-speaking world where large Arab communities have settled and prospered in the 20th century. Although she officially takes over as director on Sept. 1, Ms. Arroyo has been working as acting director with the departure of Mr. Casado. She will sign her contract in Spain in August when the Instituto Cervantes will be closed for business, at least here in Amman, and when she will be joining her husband and children for maybe a new kind of holiday with family and friends.



Camino Arroyo

**Proof in numbers:** When you've impressed P. Leonard Graceffo, you are sure to have impressed nearly 25,000 travel and tourism industry professionals. Mr. Graceffo, a Canadian, is the president of Skat International, the association of Skat Clubs worldwide with a membership of the tourism industry's managers and executives. Here in Jordan last week for a visit, and hosted by Skat Club Amman President Samir Sawalha of the Regency Palace Hotel, Mr. Graceffo said, "Jordan is the best kept secret in the world. You'll see proof of that when so many more tourists will start flooding your country in the near future, I hope." In just three days Mr. Graceffo took in enough to make some serious observations. One was, "Amman is one of the cleanest cities" he has ever visited. Another was that with so many tourists to this part of the world more than casually interested in archaeology, something should be done about allowing for more time to visit such sites, rather than being rushed through them to make way for the next tour group. Mr. Graceffo had good things also to say about his dealings with Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Ilah Khatib. "He is committed to Jordan and to its tourism." About his meeting with His Majesty King Hussein, Mr. Graceffo said it was brief but great — "he made me feel relaxed." He promised to come back soon. This was his first full visit to Jordan, "but I assure you all that it would not be my last."

**Even Josh likes it:** In for the long-term and not just a visit is Fiona Hamilton, the new manager of British Airways (BA) in Jordan. Mrs. Hamilton is the first country manager working in Amman since 1990. She spent some time in the Middle East as manager of sales training and said she "is very excited to be in Jordan and to be working with such a wonderful group of people." Mrs. Hamilton, who has worked with BA teams in Bahrain, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Amman, "tremendous" potential for growth in business, tourism and personal travel because of the commercial expansion in Jordan and in the region. She, husband Mike, and their 18-month-old son, Josh, are looking forward to becoming a part of the community here. "The people of Jordan have welcomed us with open arms and even Josh seems to sense that this is now home."



Amman Senior Division Little League members and their coaches

**Batter up!** If they stay long enough, the Hamiltons may get Little Josh into the local Little League. Flying out last week with uniforms, caps, bats and gloves were the team of 13, 14 and 15-year-olds boys representing the Amman Little League in the Senior Division Tournament for the second time. They will compete with other boys their age in the European Little League Baseball Tournament in Brzeg, Poland. The team is accompanied by coaches Jonathan A. Sanders and Dale Johnston, assisted by Gary Cuthbert, and of course Jordan representative Ramzi Masarweh. Another team of 11 and 12-year-olds headed for a similar tournament in Germany. While parents of these Little Leaguers worked on fund raising to get the boys to the tournaments, HRH Princess Basma and her husband Walid Kurdi, whose son Saad is on the team that left for Germany, contributed in several ways to see that these junior all-stars get a chance at competing on the international circuit. In fact Princess Basma has facilitated the allocation of 22 dunums near the Amman National Park so that the teams, which usually had to bank on the generosity of private clubs which lent out fields for practice, would have their very own practice and training fields. The Jordan Senior League is made up of Ahmad Abdeen, Mazen Alul, Nayef Alul, Issam Ashkar, Karim Atalla, Karim Ayoubi, Carl Cuthbert, Bashar Yamani, Troy Gustafson, Bilal Hamdan, Billy Kerr, Omar Masarweh, B.J. Oliver, and Anthony Woll. Let's play ball and may the best team win.

Jennifer Hamarneh

## Analysing Jordan's inter-Arab relation

### Jordan's Inter-Arab Relations: The Political Economy Of Alliance Making

By Laurie A. Brand  
Columbia University Press, New York, 1994, pp. 350

Laurie Brand gives primacy to economic variables in explaining small states' foreign policy orientation and alliance shifts — mainly on budget security grounds. This is in contrast to other scholars who have examined the dynamics of political alliances in the Third World (S. Walt, L. Brown and S. David). In order to advance her proposition, she takes Jordan as her "hard case study" examining its bilateral economic relations since the mid-1970s with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria, Iraq and Egypt. In doing so, she constructs the economic and political histories of Jordan's relations with these countries. Brand makes no apology for her iconoclastic approach when she deliberately detracts from conventional wisdom in explicating Jordan's alliance patterns. She does not warrant overriding significance to cold war security concerns and their regional dependency implications. Neither does she accentuate the ideological and Arabist inputs in unveiling Jordan's foreign policy, nor place much emphasis on realists and neo-realists, balance-of-power and international system paradigms. Brand's source material consists of various official and academic publications and interviews with former and current Jordanian officials, businessmen, industrialists and economists — interviewees include Ahmad Obaidat, Mudar Badran, Zaid Al Rifai, Taher Al Masri, Mohammad Al Saqqaf, Faysal Al Tarawneh, Khalil Al Salaim and Rima Khalaf. However, Brand acknowledges that "the process of political liberalisation in 1989 been not embarked upon, she 'might well not have been able to gain access to many of those whom (she) interviewed (pp. 9, 10). The book is divided into three parts and comprises eight chapters. The first part, "Theoretical Framework and Introduction," deals with the economics and political alliances in the developing world and Jordan's economic policy. Brand justifies her choice of the five Arab countries on the grounds that they represent different economic orientations and vary in their domestic economic structure. This, according to

Brand, provides a case for "examining and contrasting" the role which economic factors play in bilateral relations (p. 4). In order to build a case for explaining foreign policy behaviour she critiques the literature on the role of economic variables in developing states. She then examines the concept of economic security and argues for broadening the concept of state and regime security to include questions related to state finances and the budget. This broadened concept of state security which treats domestic political economy in a sophisticated manner. Brand claims, better explains small states' alliance behaviour (p. 16).

When touching on the issue of structural adjustment programmes, traditionally concomitant with the harsh conditionality dictated by multilateral lending institutions, her views are similar to M. Barnett's. In explaining economic decision-making in Jordan, Brand adopts the three most common approaches deployed in analysing economic decision-making in the Western industrialised world. These focus on systemic level, societal forces and the state (p. 40). Accordingly, she examines the roles of the Jordanian private and public sectors, the palace and the cabinet, the Economic Security Committee, the role of ministers, the parliament, foreign trade and the bureaucracy. In concluding this part, she argues that the structure of Jordan's revenues plays a "key" if not "decisive" role in steering its foreign policy (p. 83).

In part two, Brand examines the bilateral relations between Jordan and the five Arab countries. In all the five cases she examines systematically political and economic developments, bilateral trade, labour migration, aid matters and investment.

Brand starts off by studying the Jordanian-Saudi relations (sub-divided into The Boom Years: 1975-1981 and The Years of Austerity: 1982-1990). The Tapline, oil supplies and the Hijaz Railway Project, are among the issues examined. Brand contends that Saudi Arabia provided substantial economic assistance because "a stable Jordan was viewed as key to Saudi security as well" (p. 88). She further elaborates that Jordan has served as a buffer between Saudi Arabia and Israel and Saudi Arabia and the Arab East; sent troops and undertook diplomatic initia-

tives when the Saudis countenanced indirect involvement; provided border surveillance and stemmed smuggling; remained as a conservative regime on Saudi Arabia's western borders and resisted pressures for radical economic and political change which could have spilled over the peninsula (pp. 117, 120).

In studying Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations (sub-divided into The Years of Plenty: 1975-1981 and Gradual Economic Retreat: 1982-1990), Brand argues that Kuwait also supported Jordan financially because of Kuwaiti security interests. She argues that the Kuwaiti financial assistance to Jordan was "by no means central to the Jordanian economy and state budget." However, Kuwait's replacement of its 1979 Baghdad commitments by in-kind assistance in 1985 "appears," nevertheless, "to have been the result of genuine economic and budgetary troubles" (pp. 135, 146). These troubles, according to Brand, include the sharp decline in oil prices and Kuwait's markedly increased military spending (p. 135).

Jordanian-Syrian relations are sub-divided into The Rapprochement of 1975-1977: From Cooling to Confrontation: 1978-1983; The beginnings of a Thaw: 1984-1985 and The New Reconciliation?: 1986-1990. 1975-1977 Jordanian-Syrian rapprochement is ascribed to a mutual Jordanian-Syrian desire to make concerted efforts "in order to force the Gulf states to take notice" and consequently provide assistance to both countries (p. 157). The improvement in relations in 1985 was attributed to the twin effect of Jordan's desire to improve its economic ties with Syria in the face of declining Iraqi aid and markets, together with Syria's receptiveness due to chronic problems with Iranian oil supplies and ensuing economic difficulties. However when investigating Jordanian-syrian joint economic ventures, Brand quotes Mohammad Al Saqqaf for first-hand comments. According to Saqqaf many of the failures were due either to incompatibility of the economic systems or to the fact that many companies "were established on the basis of slogans derived from ideological enthusiasm." (p. 190).

Jordanian-Iraqi relations are sub-divided into The Lean Years: 1985-1987: From Egypt's Peace to Iraq's War: 1979-1980; Iraq at War: 1981-1984; Iraq at War: 1985 to the 1988 Ceasefire and From the

## BOOK REVIEWS

ACC to the Gulf Crisis: 1989-1990. Brand discussed the undeclared Jordanian-Iraqi-Saudi axis and the Jordanian-Iraqi-Egyptian axis. She also examines early extensive Iraqi aid to Jordan. Jordanian-Iraqi private sectors relations and the export credit crisis which was a potent factor in precipitating the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar in 1988/1989. By 1989, Brand contends, Iraq was Jordan's number one trading partner, owed Jordan hundreds of millions of dollars and Jordan relied on Iraq for nearly 80 per cent of its oil supplies (p. 286).

Jordanian-Egyptian relations are sub-divided into From Disengagement to Camp David: 1975-1979; Adherence to Sanctions: 1979-1984 and A New Era: 1985 to the Gulf Crisis. Brand posits that the two major shifts in Jordanian-Egyptian relations in 1979 and 1984 were largely the result of economic factors (p. 243). Furthermore, she contends that Jordanian and Egyptian bureaucracies have been "key to the success or failure of economic statecraft" (p. 272). She also discerns a parallel between the revival of Jordanian-Syrian relations in 1975 and the establishment of the regional sub-grouping quadripartite the ACC in 1989.

Party three contains Brand's conclusions. In addition, Jordan's behaviour during the 1991 Gulf Crisis is examined.

If one were to critique Brand's work, one would say that the study could have been more illuminating if she had conducted interviews with officials from other Arab states to put a counter argument. The role of the superpowers in the Middle East is absent and the study may have limited application to affluent small states. Brand also fails to justify her zealous championing of business classes in Jordan at a time when nation-building dictated a welfare state, and extensive spending on infrastructural projects. Having said that, however, Brand does indeed provide us with a new prism through which Jordan's inter-Arab relations can be analysed. Her study is penetrating, provocative and original. It should be taken seriously by those who attempt decoding small states' foreign policy decisions which cannot be explained by traditional theories of international relations.

Lu'ayy Minwer Al Rimawi



# Proteins to your PC

By Jean-Claude Elias

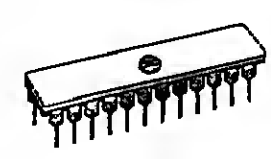
The IT (information technology) industry is giving us faster computers at the average rate of twice a year. It is doing it by designing and manufacturing silicon chips that are able to store and process more and more information. This is achieved by squeezing more functions (tens of thousands of them per square inch) in microprocessors and memory chips, and by manufacturing these incredibly sophisticated circuits with increasingly thinner silicon wafers.

However, as we know it well, every physical matter has its limits. Soon, the industry will reach a point where it will be impossible to concentrate more functions in microprocessors or more bytes in memory chips. Manufacturers are fast approaching the absolute limits of silicon.

Researchers have started their quest to find a replacement for the ubiquitous silicon. Different ideas and theories have emerged in the minds of engineers, ranging from computers that are completely operated by laser technology to processors that are based on living cells. Although it sounds like science fiction, the latter solution is gaining momentum. At one of the most serious institutions, "scientists at Syracuse University... are working on computer memory and processors that use biological proteins instead of semiconductors" (Scott Wilkinson, Electronic Musician, July 1995).

One of the proteins that are considered, the bacteriorhodopsin, has the property to undergo very specific changes if exposed to photocycles (changes of

## chip talk



light). This essential property is precisely the one used in conventional silicon circuits that can represent the two basic values from which any computer operation starts: 0 and 1. The protein would be stimulated by laser beams.

Not only can the protein fulfill the task of more traditional technology, but its molecular size will also allow for much higher densities of storage and processing than it is currently possible with silicon. Moreover, to dive even deeper in science fiction, the very nature of these molecules will let computer specialists get closer to making machines better simulate the human brain's methods and activities. Small memory cards will hold 40 GB (40 billion characters) of data.

All this shouldn't sound more unbelievable than what a Pentium PC was only 15 years ago. An estimated 20 years seem necessary to fine-tune computers working on biomolecules.

# On the need to speak one's mind

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Anything that a writer normally puts down on paper or says before an audience, is something that he or she believes in. The written and spoken words become a direct representation of the writer's own convictions and sensibilities, which, in turn, give meaning to the essay or speech.

The role that writers, and intellectuals as a whole, were supposed to play in society has, over the years, been the subject of a heartening debate. In the Reith Lectures 1993, Edward Said promoted the proposition that intellectuals were not there to make their audiences feel good. The whole point, he wrote, was to be embarrassing, contrary, even unpleasant: to raise embarrassing questions, to confront orthodoxy and to represent all those people and issues who were routinely forgotten or swept under the rug.

This is how we should be. We have been presented with the opportunity and the fresh perception to lay the groundwork for our way of life in the future, to reach out for genuinely living things and to discard the dogmas of the past. The whole point of all this is that we should not be afraid to speak our minds and to demand whatever we believe while either driving or walking. We should be able to eat our food without worrying about hormones or pesticides. The elderly need to know that they will be provided for once they can no longer work. We have a right to ask for tighter controls along borders and at border

crossing points. We are certainly in need of opera houses, natural history museums, architecture museums, science museums, etc.... We need to feel that our future will be both comfortable and secure.

Statements made on television about Jordan not having a drug problem at the moment but could develop one very easily should not be brushed aside so quickly. If we truly believe that we are on the brink of something as serious as a drug addiction phenomena, then we should act right now.

Our problems will not go away if we pretend that they do not exist. We have to face up to them and try to come up with credible solutions.

Certainly the problems that the younger generation is facing today are very different from the ones that the older generations faced when they were growing up. Mass communication devices have certainly played a major role in shaping this divide. The car, the telephone, satellite television, computers, in internet, E-mail and travel all mean that it has become easier to move from one place to another. Talking to other people and exploring different cultures has also never been easier. But our younger generation is not a whole homogenous entity about whom sweeping generalisations can be made. Backgrounds, ideological beliefs and needs are some of things that young people believe define who they really are and should assist us in providing for them.

These are only some of the legitimate concerns that we are faced with today. One question remains, are we ready to face up to them?"

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

<b>Thursday, July 27</b> 1:30 Iris-The Happy Professor 1:40 Noddy 2:00 Fireman Sam 2:15 My Secret Identity 2:30 N.B.A. 3:00 Pirates Island 3:30 Take Your Pick 4:00 I Witness Video 4:30 French Programme 7:30 News Headlines 7:35 Documentary - National Geographic 8:30 The Album Show 9:15 Murder She Wrote 10:00 News In English 10:25 Movie - Russian Holiday Starring: Sudan Blakely & Barry Bostwick The story of a woman who sumbles on a ruthless conspiracy to steal a priceless Russian treasure.	12:00 Shogun <b>Friday, July 28</b> 1:00 Read-A-Deed-Deed-A-Dee 1:15 Beethoven 1:30 Why I didn't Think Of That 2:00 White Fang 2:30 Movie - Bonanza: The Return Starring: Ben Johnson & Michael London JR The story of patriarch Ben Cartwright and his three sons all from different mothers... 4:00 The Crystal Maze 4:30 French Programme 7:30 News Headlines 7:35 African Skies 8:00 Coach 8:30 Jordan Today 9:15 Wild Side 10:00 News In English 10:25 Movie - Switching Parents	Starring: Bill Smitrotich & Kathleen York The movie tells the passionate story of a boy who has for a long time suffered from his parents' ill-relationship. He soon gets adopted by another family who treat him as a "son." 12:00 The Powers That Be <b>Saturday, July 29</b> 2:00 Back To The Future 2:50 Harry And The Hendersons. 3:00 Road To Avonlea 4:00 Families 5:00 Spirou 5:30 Documentary - C'est Pas Sorcier 6:00 Place En Garde A Vue 7:00 Le Journal 7:30 News Headlines 8:00 Major Dad (Comedy) 8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful	9:15 Drama - Dr. Quinn-Medicine Woman The tale of a modern woman in the Old West. 10:00 News In English 10:20 Movie: Murder So Sweet Starring: Harry Hamlin & Helen Shaver A woman dies in mysterious conditions where her husband is suspected to be the most possible murderer. <b>Sunday, July 30</b> 2:00 The Flintstones 2:30 The Mighty Jungle 3:00 Pugwall Summer 3:30 Movie Magic 4:00 Families 5:00 Spirou 5:30 La Marche Du Siecle 7:00 Le Journal 7:15 Ushuaia: Le Magazine Del L'Extreme	7:30 News Headlines 7:35 Documentary - Tomorrow's World 8:00 Nurses 8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 9:15 Strathblair 10:00 News In English 10:25 Counterstrike 11:30 The Hidden Room 12:00 Grace Under Fire <b>Monday, July 31</b> 2:00 Animals Of Farthingwood 2:30 Hey Dad! 3:00 Documentary - Survival 4:00 Families 5:00 Spirou 5:30 Telefilm - Graziel 7:00 Le Journal 7:15 French Varieties 7:30 News Headlines	7:35 Camp Wilder 8:00 McHale's Navy 8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 9:15 Harts Of The West A comedy about a 41-year-old big-city lingerie salesman whose recent coronary episode has convinced him that it's time to take a chance on his lifelong dream. 10:00 News In English 10:25 The Ruth Rendell's Mysteries - Front Door With Death 11:00 Movie - Rerun "Airport 77" Starring: James Stewart & Jack Lemon The exciting story of a flying crew whose aeroplane gets hijacked by terrorists looking for priceless portraits. <b>Tuesday, August 1</b> 2:00 Captain Planet 2:30 M.A.N.T.I.S.	3:00 The Road To Avonlea 4:00 Families 5:00 Spirou 5:30 Magazine - Montagne 5:50 Taratata 7:00 Le Journal 7:15 Magazine - Faut Pas Rever 7:30 News Headlines 7:35 You Bet Your Life 8:00 Piglet Files 8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 9:15 Urban Angel 10:00 News In English 10:25 Death Of Apartheid 11:30 New York Undercover 12:00 Keeping Up Appearances <b>Wednesday, August 2</b> 2:00 Problem Child	2:30 Super Champs 3:00 Documentary - Tomorrow's World 3:30 Amazing Stories 4:00 Families 5:00 Spirou 5:30 Detective Telefilm - Nestor Burma 7:00 Le Journal 7:15 Ushuaia 7:30 News Headlines 7:35 Documentary - Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe 8:00 Anything For A Laugh 8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 9:15 Documentary - Blood And Belonging 10:00 News In English 10:25 Prism 10:45 Blue Skies 11:30 Not A Penny More, Not A Penny Less
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## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- The days of winter are cold.  
Ayyamush shita baarida.
- The key of the box is in my pocket.  
Miftah as'sundook fee jaybi.
- The window of the room is open.  
Shubbakul ghurfa maftooh.
- The colours of the flowers are attractive and beautiful.  
Alwauul azhaar jath'habah wa jamuelalah.
- The top of the mountain is covered with snow.  
Qimmatul jabal mughattatun beth'thalj.
- The noise of the traffic is annoying.  
Sawt harakatul muroor muzz'eja.
- The Mosque of al-Hussein is downtown.  
Masjedul Hussein fee wasatil madeena.

### TIME FOR FUN

- ★ MAN: "Where's your dog?"  
FRIEND: "I've had it put down."  
MAN: "Was it mad?"  
FRIEND: "No, of course not - I had its teeth sharpened."

### DEFINITIONS:

- CLOAK: mating call of a Chinese frog.
- EUNUCH: man cut out to be a bachelor.
- BLUNDERBUSS: a coachload of spinsters on their way to a maternity hospital.
- VICE VERSA: dirty poems.
- MISTRESS: something between a mister and a mattress.

- MUSHROOM: place where Eskimos train their dogs.  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Who was the leader of the British Fascist party in the nineteen-thirties?
2. Where is the tomb of Britain's "Unknown Warrior"?
3. Who was forced to resign the Presidency of the United States?
4. These famous men's names are mixed up. Try to match them again correctly:  
Bill Belini; Christopher Dryden; Graham Wren; John Columbus; Vincenzo Gower; John Clinton; Christopher Bell.

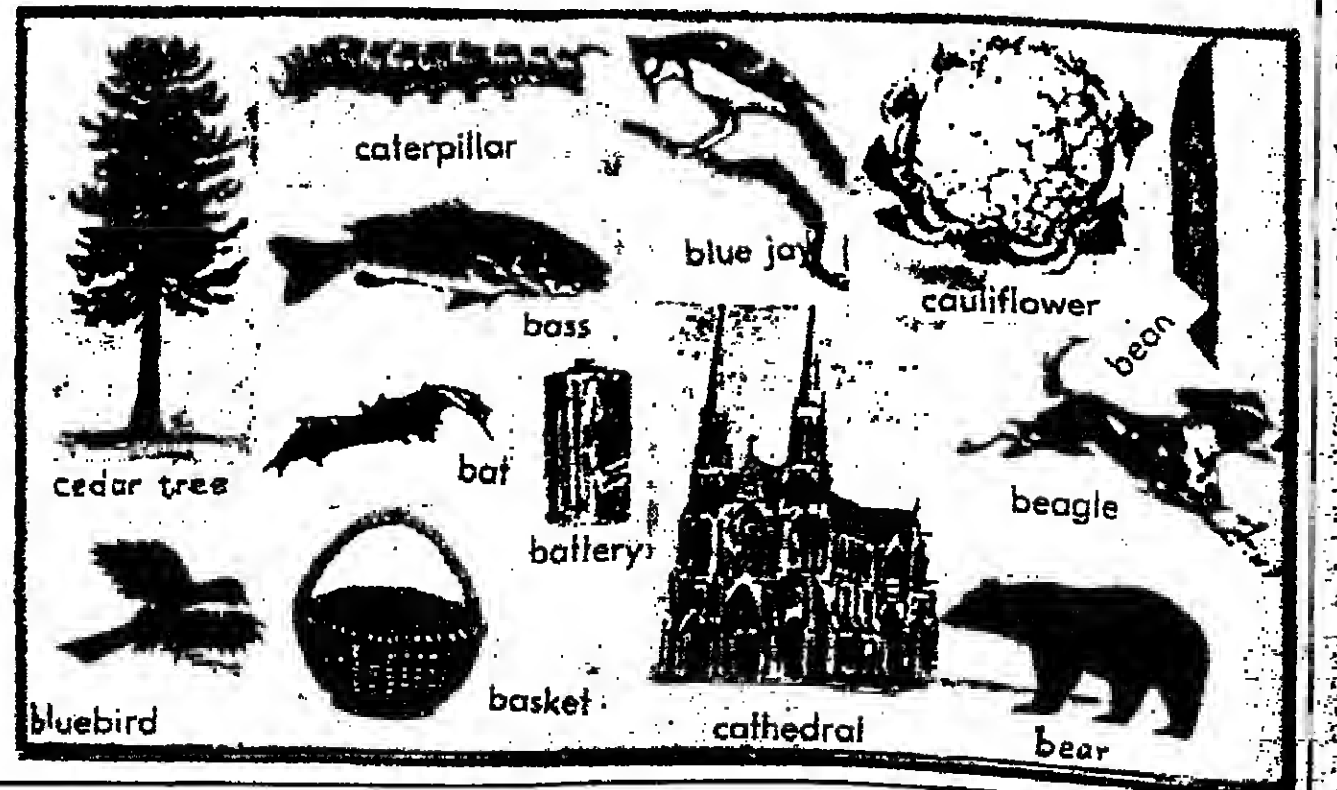
### BRAIN TEASERS

- (A). You are three people fishing. They are neither men, women, nor children. Can you tell what they are?  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- (B). Harry and Barry were born on the same day in the same year. They have the same mother and father. Yet, they are twins. How is this possible?  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- (C). Can you think of an English word of FOUR LETTERS which reads the same upside-down as it does right-side up, when printed in capital letters?  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- (D). Name a living creature that begins with the letters AA, and EE, and II, and LL, and OO.  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### TEST YOUR MEMORY

There are 13 drawings in this frame. Have a look at them for one minute, then try to memorise them again. If you score them all, your memory is quite excellent. 12-11 very good; 10-9 good; 8-7 fair; 6-4 weak.



By Andrea Reuter  
HOLLYWOOD - more could a series



Ben Kingsley  
By John Ho  
The Associated

LOS ANGELES  
Barbra Streisand a drum set.  
The judge in the Simpson trial, on the stand. Michael Jackson playing ice hockey. Fact is, most can't play out of their except motion directors.  
In a linguistic out, several acc...  
makers are s...  
in languages...  
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haven't been...  
stopped by the...  
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get lexicon.  
Among the di...  
speaking in new circ...  
magazines:  
- Alfonso Ar...

## Film

By Bob Thor...  
The Associated  
LOS ANGELES -  
came from town...  
names such as...  
caupheim. Tulch...  
Rase. Or they wi...  
sons of immigran...  
other Eastern Eu...  
places. All were J...  
With little ed...  
and much chutzk...  
brashness - they...  
onto the nickelode...  
ness, bought...  
theatres, then...  
making movies to...  
their chains. Soo...  
built nationwide...  
producing, distr...  
and exhibiting mot...  
tures.

An industry was...  
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Co. in 1909. Film...  
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trust. Theatre op...  
would be assessed...  
of Edison's project...  
would be charged...  
dead fees for rentin...  
The patents co...  
also contracted wit...

## 2maj

By Hanns Neuer  
The Associated I...  
GENEVA - Mor...  
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On view are...  
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been used in the 15...  
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to an enchanting...  
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graphy, the art of...  
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Geneva. The art so...  
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cause of the weig...



## Ben Kingsley still lives in shadow of Gandhi

By Andrea Orr  
Reuter  
HOLLYWOOD — What more could a serious actor



Ben Kingsley

ask for than to win Hollywood's most coveted award the first time he ventures onto the big

screen?  
Ben Kingsley often wonders if the wish would be for everyone to forget it ever happened.

It has been 13 years and numerous film and theatre performances since Kingsley won the Academy Award for his portrayal of India's most famous 20th century leader, but his role as Gandhi has stuck with him like a middle name.

"I got an Oscar for playing a great religious, political and spiritual leader and people think that's all I can do," sighs Kingsley, the half-Indian, British-born actor who bears some resemblance to the character he can't seem to

shake.  
So it is with dismay that Kingsley responds to comments that his latest role in the science fiction thriller *Species* is an unusual part for him.

In *Species*, which opens in the United States Friday, Kingsley strays about as far as possible from a historically documented project. He plays a brilliant doctor verging on mad scientist who looks for signs of other life in the universe, finds alien DNA and injects it into a human egg, to potentially cataclysmic results.

"It's a bit self-defeating when people say: 'That's not you'," Kingsley said in a recent interview. "No-

body has a clue who I am."

What many people err in thinking Kingsley is, he says, is an intensely sombre actor limited to playing heads of state, religious leaders or important historical figures.

He has had his share of such roles, from Mahatma Gandhi to the Jewish accountant Itzhak Stern in *Schindler's List*, and more recent parts playing Joseph and Moses in Biblical dramas produced for cable television. But, he insists, "it's not my fault."

Long before Gandhi brought that sort of work his way, Kingsley had had a prominent career in the theatre.  
Stage acting, he recalls,

was an inspiration that struck him so hard as a young man that he had to be carried out of a performance of *Richard III* after fainting for sheer marvel at the force of the production. He later joined London's Royal Shakespeare Company and travelled with some other troupes, earning a reputation as a meticulous and versatile stage performer.

Aside from two minor film roles years earlier, Kingsley was almost 40 when he made his big film debut. After Gandhi in 1982, he returned to the theatre to gain recognition as one of the foremost interpreters of the work of

Harold Pinter and continued to make television and movie films.

Among them was some light fare like the part of the fictional American vice president in *Dave*, a 1993 comedy about a presidential impostor.

Problem is, such parts seem to abandon him as soon as they are completed, as if everyone assumes he took the job only as a respite from more serious business. "I don't think there's any difference whatsoever," he says, comparing his work in sweeping epics to his more fanciful projects.

While he is setting the record straight, Kingsley says he sees no superior

moral value in so-called literate films over those excessively violent ones that have become a popular target of U.S. Republican presidential contenders.

"Richard the Third, Maebeth, King Lear, where Gloucester has his eyes gouged out and some members of the audience pass out from shock and horror. All these plays are performed over and over again and people understand violence incorporated into a work of art," he says.

So, if he could shake stereotypes, what would he choose to do next?  
"More comedy, please."

## Bilingual directors give new meaning to foreign-language films

By John Horn  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Imagine Barbra Streisand behind a drum set. Lance Ito, the judge in the O.J. Simpson trial, on the witness stand. Michael Jordan playing ice hockey.

Fact is, most people can't play out of position — except motion picture directors.

In a linguistic turnabout, several acclaimed filmmakers are shooting movies in languages other than their native tongue. What's more, the directors haven't been handicapped by the artistic equivalent of driving on the other side of the road: They are retaining their distinctive movie diction even as they work with a new lexicon.

Among the directors speaking in new cinematic tongues:

— Alfonso Arau, the

director of Mexico's Spanish-language film *Like Water For Chocolate*. He has made the English-language *A Walk In The Clouds* with Keanu Reeves.

— English filmmaker Michael Radford, director of *White Mischief* and 1984. He also made *Il Postino*, a movie entirely in Italian and French now in release.

— Canada's Denys Arcand, who made *Jesus Of Montreal* in French, then directed *Love And Human Remains* in English.

— Mexico's Alfonso Cuarón, director of the Spanish-language *Love In The Time Of Hysteria*. He just piloted the American movie *A Little Princess*, to be re-released later this year.

The directors are all at least conversational in their non-native lan-

guages, so the transition has been easier. Several of the filmmakers also hired key creative personnel from their earlier films, since they already communicate in filmmaking shorthand.

"When I was setting up the camera, I spoke to my cinematographer, Emmanuel Lubezki, in Spanish," says Arau, who collaborated with Lubezki on *Like Water For Chocolate*, the highest-grossing contemporary foreign-language film in the United States.

"After our conference, I would translate the instructions to our first assistant director, and he would tell the crew and cast what we were going to do," Arau said.

Arau wasn't just working in a new language. He was in a new system — Hollywood.

After spending \$3 million and five years bring-

ing *Like Water For Chocolate* to the screen, Arau had a budget of \$20 million for *A Walk In The Clouds* and the film was made in about a year.

"It was the first time I could shoot five days a week and not look for money Saturday and Sunday so we could shoot the next week," Arau says of the romantic drama. "In the Third World, we don't make films. We make miracles."

Radford first read the novel upon which *Il Postino* is based in French. The book *Burning Patience*, about poet Pablo Neruda and a postman, was set in Chile. Radford and his screenwriters relocated it across the Atlantic.

"It had to be an Italian film, because that's where the money came from," says Radford. "It couldn't be in Spanish, because I

don't speak that too well. I was extremely nervous, but I thought Italian was the best shot."

Radford learned Italian making 1983's *Another Time, Another Place*, whose cast included three Italian actors. "I got the audiocassettes and got right to the end. It's 40 lessons and I did them all," says Radford.

On *Il Postino*, now in limited release, he was the only English speaker on the set.

"That makes you extremely tired. Your brain is having to work overtime, and sometimes you can't even remember what language you're supposed to be speaking," Radford says.

"And you have to be very careful to get the nuances of the culture exactly right.... It was like directing underwater — everything happened a little slower."

Just as Arau brought his dreamlike Mexican sensibility to *A Walk In The Clouds*, Radford laced *Il Postino* with an English sense of humour.

The film's star, the late Massimo Troisi, is known in Italy for his broad comedy. In *Il Postino*, he performs with more subtlety and wit — the comedy is refined. It's as if *commedia dell'arte* was transformed into Monty Python.

Says Radford: "If an Italian had directed it, it would have been a very different film."

Like Radford, Arcand first encountered *Love And Human Remains* in French, when he saw a translation of the Brad Fraser play *Unidentified Human Remains And The True Nature Of Love*.

"But I knew it was an English-language play," Arcand says of the story of

troubled young professionals and their more troubled relationships.

"The language is really irrelevant," says Arcand, who speaks flawless English. "I'm really trying to make the best films possible in any language."

While Arcand's cast spoke English, some of his crew spoke French, but all spoke to each other. There was no segregation along language lines.

Even though Arcand moved from French to English with little struggle, one of his earlier films did not. Paramount Pictures was interested in an English-language remake of Arcand's 1986 movie *The Decline Of The American Empire*, which included a lot of dialogue about sex. So a script was ordered.

But what was poetic and erotic in French turned crude and degrading in

English. "The English version of it was so brutal, so abrasive. It was not attractive at all," Arcand says. The film was never made.

These are not the first directors to work in a non-native language — many of the world's top directors have made the same linguistic jump in recent years.

Paul Verhoeven made *Spetters* and *Soldier Of Orange* in Dutch before directed Czech films and then made *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* and *Amadeus*. Costa-Gavras, *Z* and *State Of Siege* were in French, *Missing* and *The Music Box* in English.

Radford is now set to journey to the United States to direct another movie in what is to him — and many — another unintelligible dialect.

Says Radford: "Well, it's set in New Jersey."

## Film industry owes beginnings to tough immigrants from E. Europe

By Bob Thomas  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — They came from towns with names such as Minsk, Laupheim, Tulchva and Risce. Or they were the sons of immigrants from other Eastern European places. All were Jewish.

With little education and much chutzpah — brashness — they muscled into the nickelodeon business, bought more theatres, then started making movies to supply their chains. Soon they built nationwide giants producing, distributing and exhibiting motion pictures.

An industry was born. In the beginning, U.S. inventor Thomas A. Edison tried to control his brainchild by forming the Motion Picture Patents Co. in 1909. Filmmaking would be limited to seven companies licensed by the trust. Theatre operators would be assessed for use of Edison's projectors and would be charged standard fees for renting films. The patents company also contracted with East-

man Kodak to sell raw stock only to licensed firms. The company's demands were enforced by bands of detectives and lawyers.

Such high-handed methods aroused the hundreds of filmmakers and exhibitors who had crowded into a business that offered quick riches and an eager audience. When the trust began confiscating the equipment of moviemakers, many moved to southern California. If the enforcers followed them there, they could hide their film across the border in Mexico.

Carl Laemmle and William Fox helped lead the rebellion.

A gnomish German immigrant, Laemmle defied the trust with his Independent motion picture Co. (IMP). He virtually invented the star system and glamorised his top actors with clever use of publicity. The Patents Company seemed unable to stop him, and his example prompted others to revolt. Fox, born Wilhelm

Fried in Hungary, left the garment trade for nickelodeons — the early moving picture shows. Like other pioneers, he soon discovered that big money lay in making and distributing movies. Combating the patents monopoly, he formed his own film exchange, then branched into production.

With the election of Woodrow Wilson in 1912, the U.S. government moved against the Patents Co. monopoly, which finally was outlawed in 1917. By that time motion pictures had become a wide-open business in which only the strongest survived.

"They were all tough," says Sam Jaffe, 94, a former producer and agent who knew and worked with all of the U.S. industry leaders, from Adolph Zukor to Lew Wasserman.

Their toughness came from the ghettos of Eastern Europe and the streets of New York. But, Jaffe added, these men had other qualities that suited them for motion pictures: "They were unedu-

cated, but they had an uncanny instinct for what the world needed in the way of entertainment. Since they came from common beginnings, they had a feel for the desires of the public."

The founders also possessed intense patriotism for their adopted land. Having known the pogroms of Russia and other eastern countries, they cherished the freedoms of America and celebrated them in films. During the two world wars and other national crises, movie people responded as did no other industry.

Hungary-born Adolph Zukor seemed the least likely of industry giants. A tiny man with a benign face, he competed with sometimes ruthless intensity. He drove many a rival out of business, notably Lewis J. Selznick, father of David O. Selznick, who made *Gone With The Wind*.

After founding Famous Players, which later became Paramount Pictures, Zukor brought Broadway plays and stars to the

screen. In 1916, he hired Mary Pickford for an amazing \$10,000 a week and a \$300,000 bonus.

Zukor built a huge theatre chain so Paramount movies would always have a place for exhibition. His attempts to swallow competitors finally was halted by government antitrust litigation.

Louis B. Mayer was also a small man and equally ruthless. Born in Russia, an immigrant to Canada, then the United States, Mayer moved from the junk business to operating the biggest theatre chain in New England. When he started producing films, he decreed they would be of the highest quality.

Mayer maintained that policy when a merger created Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM). He and his brilliant production chief, Irving Thalberg, shared an uncanny knack for discovering stars. By the 1930s, MGM could boast of having "more stars than there are in the heavens."

An emotional man who

could cry to win a contract negotiation, Mayer wielded absolute power over the Culver City Studio. He even deposed Thalberg when the ailing producer took a rest trip to Europe. But Mayer himself was fired by his New York bosses in 1951.

The Warner family came from Poland. Some of them were born in Europe, others in the new land. Jack, the youngest of 12 children, was born in Canada during one of the family's many travels. They finally landed in Youngstown, Ohio, where they ran a butcher shop and bicycle business before discovering the movies.

Sam Warner was the most gifted of the brothers, and he led the struggling company into sound pictures. Physical ills aggravated by overwork led to his death in 1927, one day before the opening of *The Jazz Singer*, which signaled the end of the silent era.

Warner Bros. flourished in the 1930s and '40s with gangster movies,

splashy musicals, biographies and patriotic films. Jack Warner operated the studio, and the oldest brother, Harry, handled finances in New York. They were constantly at odds.

In 1955, Jack tricked his brothers Harry and Albert into selling their holdings while he managed to hold onto his. Jack and Harry never spoke to each other after that. Jack maintained control of the company until he sold out in 1967.

Harry and Jack Cohn emerged from the rough and tumble of New York's immigrant world. Both worked for Carl Laemmle, and together with Joe Brandt formed C.B.C. Film Sales Co. in 1920. The name was changed to Columbia after the trade started referring to C.B.C. as *Comed Beef and Cabbage*.

Harry was dispatched to Hollywood's poverty row to make cheap movies. He devised new methods of thrift, such as painting backdrops on both sides of the canvas and staging

chases to the top of a hill, to catch the last rays of a sunset.

Largely because of the populist films of Frank Capra, Columbia Pictures grew to major status in the '30s. Like the Warners, the two Cohns battled fiercely, but they never separated.

Harry Cohn became the mythic figure of the studio boss, respected by some, detested by many. A crowd attended his 1958 funeral on a Columbia sound stage. Other autocrats ruled in the big-studio era, notably Darryl F. Zanuck of 20th Century Fox and the fiercely independent Samuel Goldwyn. All were gamblers, whether playing high-stakes poker and roulette or spending millions on daring films and new stars.

The stakes are higher in these times, when a single film (*Waterworld*) can run up a \$175 million price tag. But none of the business-school princes of today's film companies can ever hope to wield the power of the immigrant kings of yesteryear.

## 2 major shows mark Swiss exhibition summer

By Hanns Neuerbourg  
The Associated Press

GENEVA — More than 1,000 years of Islamic art are covered in two major shows marking Switzerland's exhibition summer.

On view are a vast selection of objects ranging from fragments of a Koran written less than a century after the death of Prophet Mohammad to armour that may have been used in the 1529 Turkish siege of Vienna and to an enchanting pre-World War I calligraphic composition.

Splendid samples of calligraphy, the art of beautiful writing, dominate the shows at Lugano and Geneva. The art soared to heights under Islam because of the weight the

Koran gave to any written text. The prohibition to depict human figures in religious manuscripts also made artists concentrate on the perfection of writing.

The exhibition at Lugano's Villa Favorita, home of priceless European art treasures of the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection until their move to Madrid three years ago, features more than 200 masterpieces from the St. Petersburg Institute for Oriental Studies.

Shown for the first time outside Russia, they include chiefly manuscripts and brilliantly coloured miniatures produced for princely palaces between Baghdad and Delhi. Outstanding among them is a

magnificent "Murakka", an album comprising decorative court scenes painted by Persian miniaturists between the 16th and early 18th century.

Another top attraction at Lugano is a richly illustrated 13th-century copy of the "Maqamat", telling the amusing stories of Abu Zaid, an Arab adventurer. Faces of many figures in the book have been erased or otherwise made unrecognisable — evidence of early Islamic fundamentalism. From Lugano, where it closes on Aug. 12, the exhibition will move to New York's Metropolitan Museum in the fall.

Art under the sultans of the Ottoman Empire, which at its peak stretched

from North Africa to the Caucasus and from Yemen to Austria, is the theme of the exhibition at Geneva's Musee Rath.

It marks the first major public presentation of choice items from the collection of Nasser David Khalil, the Iranian-born American tycoon based in London.

The emphasis, too, is on calligraphy which catalogue editor Julian Raby said was "developed by the Arabs, was refined in Iran and Iraq but reached its apogee in Istanbul."

Visitors can also admire an impressive array of other highly decorative objects reflecting life in peace and war under the Sultans who ruled over a multinational empire that

lasted 600 years. Richly engraved head harnesses for war horses and mail shirts which may have protected the troops of Suleiman the Magnificent in advancing to the walls of Vienna in 1529 tell of the military might of the sultans, who relied on the world's first standing army, the Janisaries.

Compasses, astrolabes and a 17th-century atlas with sea charts and views of Venice, Cairo, Genoa and other cities recall the important role of the Ottoman Navy, which once dominated much of the Mediterranean.

A rather plain-looking set of pouring vessels inscribed in Arabic "a gift for his excellency Abraham Lincoln" draws interest as a curio rather

than for its artistic value.

Carpets, textiles and decorative metalwork complete the exhibits which make up merely a small fragment of the about 20,000 objects in the collection. It was assembled by Khalil, descendant of a wealthy Jewish family, after he left Iran in 1967 at age 22 to study at the University of London.

Besides his widespread business engagements he is among the authors of a 26-volume survey of Islamic art based on his collection, believed to rank among the biggest of its kind in the world.

## Thoughts for this week

Happiness is a sort of atmosphere you can live in sometimes when you're lucky. Joy is a light that fills you with hope and faith and love — Adela Rogers St. Johns, American journalist (1894-1988).

My theology, briefly, is that the universe was dictated but not signed — Christopher Morley, American author and journalist (1890-1957).

Slander injures three: the slanderer, the person who hears the slander, and the person slandered — From the Talmud, a collection of writings that constitute the Jewish civil and religious law.

Nothing great will ever be achieved without great men, and men are great only if they are determined to be so — Charles de Gaulle (1890-1970).

The mind will ever be unstable that has only prejudices to rest on, and the current will run with destructive fury when there are no barriers to break its force — Mary Wollstonecraft, English author (1759-1797).

History is simply a piece of paper covered with print; the main thing is still to make history, not write it — Otto von Bismarck, German statesman (1815-1898).



## Russian 'abortion culture' continues

By Julia Rubin

The Associated Press  
MOSCOW — Women who came to State Clinic No. 193 for an abortion these days may be offered something extra: Anti-abortion lectures and films.

"We'll work with those who want to help us," clinic Director Irina Tsvetkova says of her decision to let Association Life, the Russian affiliate of the International Right to Life Federation, counsel in the clinic. "We're not very experienced at this," Ms. Tsvetkova also dispenses contraceptives and family-planning advice — which anti-abortion forces generally oppose.

It is a catch-all approach increasingly common in Russia, where officials without much money or

up-to-date training are trying to curb the highest number of abortions in the world.

Progress has been slow. By the most conservative estimates, Russia had 3 million to 4 million abortions last year — more than double the number of births. The rate is roughly four times higher than in the United States, and the average Russian woman, it is guessed, has three to eight abortions.

"We have had an abortion culture, and it is changing only slowly. In the Soviet Union it was the only method of family planning," says Yelena Ballayeva, coordinator of the Open Dialogue On Reproductive Rights.

Family-planning groups like hers cite some suc-

cesses in lowering abortion through public information campaigns and contraceptives, but say that changing social attitudes takes time.

Meanwhile, a small but vocal contingent of anti-abortion activists, many backed by Western religious groups, are increasingly active. They have the support of the Russian Orthodox Church, and have broad access to schools, clinics and medical institutes.

The new debate over abortion plays on deep fears in Russia since the loss of the cold war that its soul is sick and even its physical survival is at risk.

"I am thinking of course of the future of the country," the clinic director, Ms. Tsvetkova, answers

when asked why the anti-abortion message appeals to her.

Russia's birth rate and life expectancy have plummeted, and nationalists say abortion is a crime against the nation. Vitaly Savitsky, a parliament member who is drafting a bill aimed at sharply restricting abortion and encouraging birth, says Russia is otherwise "doomed to extinction."

Still, abortion is so ingrained a right that even its fiercest opponents don't imagine a ban anytime soon.

"This isn't Poland with the Catholic Church," sighs Olga Selikhova, director of Association Life. "We are at square one, trying to change the way people think. Here,

they were taught that abortion is like having a tooth out."

In Soviet days, contraceptives were scarce and of such poor quality that the dangers of crude, assembly-line abortions seemed the safer bet. The Soviet state needed women in the work force, and few had the time, money or living space to have more than one child.

Now, higher quality Western contraceptives are more available and affordable, but supplies can be unreliable and fears linger. Sex education is virtually nonexistent.

"People my age mostly hope they'll just be lucky enough not to get in trouble," says Vika, a 17-year-old who had an abortion this summer in a new St.

Petersburg clinic for teens. She said her boyfriend wouldn't use condoms and she had heard birth control pills were dangerous.

Moreover, economic hard times continue to make babies seem like luxuries.

Women work in Russia's lowest paying jobs and account for most of the unemployed. Housing remains tight. And state subsidies to mothers are minuscule, between 30,000 and 50,000 rubles a month per child, roughly \$11.

"I would be eager to have a baby," says Vika. "but I just graduated from school and I don't have a job."

Even abortion itself is becoming more expensive

and difficult to obtain," Ms. Ballayeva says.

The crumbling of the Soviet health-care system means many women must go to private or regional clinics that set their own rates for a procedure that used to be free. In addition, a medical-insurance law passed last year disqualified from state coverage abortions performed beyond five weeks.

"If it costs money, a lot of women can't have it. For many Russian women, even abortion is becoming just a dream," says Ms. Ballayeva, who is helping draft a law that would guarantee the right to affordable abortion.

Last year, President Boris Yeltsin signed a law creating a network of family-planning centres

that would distribute free contraceptives based on economic need. It also called for an information campaign in print and broadcast.

"The Silent Scream," a graphic anti-abortion film, aired three times on national television, but it may have the opposite effect in Russia than intended. After seeing the film, which shows in detail what happens to a 12-week-old fetus during abortion, some viewers have said they were impressed by Western hygienic standards.

At Clinic No. 193, Ms. Tsvetkova says that whatever the counseling, the decision must still be the woman's.

"And they seem to go ahead and terminate the pregnancy," she said.

## Soaring infertility in Congo leaves women childless outcasts

By Louis Okamba  
The Associated Press

BRAZZAVILLE, Congo — The Congolese have a traditional saying that underlies much mockery and tears across the country: "An infertile woman is like a fruitless tree that should be chopped down."

For Celine Kimbembe it meant the end of her marriage.

"I was chased out of the bedroom after five years of marriage by my husband's parents," said the 32-year-old high school teacher in Brazzaville, the capital. "My crime, in their eyes, was my inability to have children."

Her story has become worryingly common in Congo and elsewhere in central and western Africa, where sexually transmitted diseases, botched abortions and poor health care are rendering more and more women infertile.

In Congo, at least 20 per cent of the women cannot bear children — the world's worst rate — and some experts put it as high as three of every five women. The infertility rate is about the same in neighbouring Zaire, 17 per cent in Central Africa Republic, 14 per cent in Zambia, 12 per cent in Cameroon.

By contrast, about 6 per cent of women are infertile in the United States and Japan, which are on the high end of industrialised nations. Most nations in other parts of Africa have rates in line with international norms, says the Population Action International, a research group in Washington.

"When you start getting into that 10 per cent to 20 per cent range, you're talking about really, really serious problems," said Sally Ethelston at Popula-

tion Action. In a culture where women are valued for the number of children they bear, sterile women in Congo find themselves ostracised, going from church to hospital to traditional healers in search of a cure.

Beatrice Atsono-Ngatshe, 57, married and divorced five times, says she tried everything — even sleeping with a clergyman.

"One day, a minister took advantage of me by convincing me that a few sexual encounters with him would help my sterility," said Atsono. "I'll never forget this shameful scam, which never ceases to amuse my current and sixth husband, who accepts my condition."

Women's health care has never been a high priority in Africa's patriarchal societies, which generally forbid abortions and frown on birth control. Pre-natal care and family planning programmes are scarce, and treatment for sexually transmitted disease is too expensive for most.

Fertile women in sub-Saharan Africa bear an average of 6.4 children each, the highest rate in the world, according to UNICEF. In many western and central African countries, the average is more than seven per woman.

Women who do not want to get pregnant turn to contraceptives, but birth control pills often are fake or poorly made and folk methods are ineffective. When they fail, the women obtain illegal and dangerous abortions that can cause scarring and infertility.

Doctors say the infertility problem is compounded by girls being pressured to become sexually active

as they approach puberty, mainly by men seeking virgins who do not pose an AIDS threat. Younger girls are more susceptible to infections that can lead to blockage of the fallopian tubes.

For Pauline Nkondani, 43, not having children has left her feeling not only empty inside but without a husband. In most of Africa, an unmarried, childless woman is considered a disgrace.

"Not to have a child, for me, is a real curse. God took away three-fourths of my life. I feel an emptiness that nothing can fill," Nkondani said, wiping away tears.

Like most childless women in Congo, Loise Kenge is superstitious about her infertility.

"It was just after a dispute with my maternal aunt that I began to have difficulties. That last time, she declared that I would never bear children," said Kenge, 38.

Dr. Robert Koubaka, an obstetrician-

gynecologist at the Central Hospital of the University of Brazzaville, scoffs at beliefs that spirits can either cause or cure the problem.

He puts the sterility rate at 3-in-5 women and blames at least 70 per cent of cases on infections or scar tissue caused by disease or botched birth control efforts.

As an accountant, Kenge makes good money — \$400 a month when a typical government employee earns \$150, but a man she once lived with refused to marry her because she could not have children.

"In the compound where we lived, there was this fruitless papaya tree. My 'mother-in-law' used this tree to make fun of me. Sometime she would joke and order girls to cut down the tree because it was unproductive," Kenge recalled.

"Despite my good job, I feel an emptiness. Even a husband wouldn't be enough to console me."

## Infertility rates in sub-Saharan Africa

Percentage of infertile women in sub-Saharan Africa:

- 3 per cent: Burundi, Benin, Ghana.
- 4 per cent: Liberia, Senegal.
- 5 per cent: South Africa.
- 6 per cent: Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania.
- 7 per cent: Kenya.
- 8 per cent: Mali, Nigeria.
- 9 per cent: Sudan, Niger.
- 10 per cent: Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Togo.
- 11 per cent: Chad.
- 12 per cent: Angola, Cameroon.
- 14 per cent: Mozambique, Zambia.
- 17 per cent: Central African Republic.
- 21 per cent: Congo, Zaire.

Source: Population Action International, Washington.

## Dual-drug treatments found useful for arthritis

BOSTON (R) — More may be better when it comes to drugs to treat rheumatoid arthritis, two studies in the New England Journal of Medicine suggest.

During the past decade, drug treatments have made life easier for rheumatoid arthritis sufferers and the two new studies suggest that changing the timing of treatments and combining potent medications may lead to still more improvement, according to an editorial in the Journal by Dr. Ferdinand Breedveld of University Hospital in Leiden, the Netherlands.

In the first study, doctors in the United States

and Canada found the effectiveness of the anti-arthritis drug Methotrexate was enhanced by combining it with Cyclosporine, the medicine widely used in organ transplants to prevent rejection by the immune system.

The Cyclosporine study was conducted on patients for whom Aspirin and other over-the-counter drugs had failed. In those cases, Methotrexate and other drugs such as Gold Salts, Penicillamine and Antimalaria agents were tried.

Financed by Sandoz AG's Sandoz Pharmaceuticals, which sells Cyclosporine under the

brand name Sandimmune, a team led by Dr. Peter Tugwell of the University of Ottawa gave 148 volunteers with severe arthritis the usual doses of Methotrexate. Half also received Cyclosporine, while the rest received placebo tablets.

In the Cyclosporine group, 48 per cent of the patients showed significant improvement — less joint pain, tenderness and swelling. Only 16 per cent in the placebo group showed any improvement.

The Tugwell team said the number and severity of side effects did not increase substantially by the addition of Cyclosporine. But they cautioned that "the long-term risk of can-

cer" with the two drugs "requires further study," as does the long-term effectiveness of the treatment.

In the second study, researchers in Britain found that the steroid Prednisolone given for two years in addition to other treatments "substantially reduced the rate" at which rheumatoid arthritis worsened.

Although the drug is widely prescribed for arthritis, the European team, led by Dr. John Kirwan of the Bristol Royal Infirmary, searched for conclusive evidence that the Prednisolone treated arthritis, as measured by an X-ray.

## Drugs 'do not help' AIDS patients live longer

By Maggie Fox  
Reuters

LONDON — Patients who do not know they are infected with the HIV virus that causes AIDS live longer than those who get early treatment, British researchers reported.

This could mean that the current treatment for HIV, which delays the onset of full-blown AIDS, does not necessarily help the victims to live longer.

But Dr. Mark Poznansky of St. Mary's Hospital in London, who did a study with a team of colleagues, said living longer did not necessarily mean a better life for AIDS victims.

"They found that patients diagnosed with AIDS-related illnesses such as pneumonia could

be divided into two groups — those who knew they were HIV-infected and those who did not.

They reported in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) that the group in ignorance lived longer overall.

They said this had important implications for doctors studying how to treat AIDS patients, but stressed that people who do not know they are infected with HIV risk spreading it.

"This finding confirms the view that medical intervention early in the course of HIV infection may only delay progression to AIDS, but this delay may in turn be followed by a commensurate decrease in survival with AIDS," the BMJ said in a

statement. "Medical intervention is improving quality of life but not affecting survival with HIV infection overall," Dr. Poznansky said in a telephone interview.

"What we are really saying is we are improving quality of life rather than quantity of life," he said. "You get a longer AIDS-free life, which has got to be a bonus."

Dr. Poznansky and his group studied more than 400 patients with AIDS over two years. Nearly a quarter went to hospital with an AIDS-related illness like pneumonia, but without knowing they were infected with HIV.

"In Group A (339 patients) the time between the diagnosis of HIV... and the AIDS defining ill-

ness was greater than two months. In Group B (97 patients) the times between a positive result in an HIV test and the AIDS defining illness was less than two months."

There were no other significant differences between the groups, the researchers wrote.

"The survival of patients in Group B, who presented late, was found to be significantly better than the survival of patients in Group A, who presented early," they concluded.

The most common treatment for AIDS now is AZT, known also as Zidovudine, but researchers are working on a variety of other possible treatments, as well as a vaccine.

## British scientist seeks secret of flatulence

By Maggie Fox  
Reuters

LONDON — It has caused embarrassment, amusement and not a little distress down through the ages. But to Dr. Colin Leakey, flatulence is a deadly serious subject.

Dr. Leakey, a biologist who specialises in breeding peas and beans, has devoted his career to finding what makes people pass wind. He thinks he may be nearing success.

"We believe that, by looking at the chemicals in flatus, we can look at what is being broken down and where these particular chemicals come from," Dr. Leakey told Reuters.

To do this, he has invented a "flatometer," a device which measures flatulence.

He says it is an improvement on equipment used by the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which has always been concerned about the behaviour of digestive gases in astronauts in confined areas.

Dr. Leakey has used it on a series of volunteers and has presented his findings at meetings of biologists specialising in legumes and related subjects.

"We are going to be suggesting that there may be chemicals that have an isopropanol grouping, probably attached to a sugar," he said.

If beans could be bred that contain fewer of these alcohols, Dr. Leakey hopes people eating them would suffer less digestive distress. "We are sticking our necks out to a certain extent," he says.

To Dr. Leakey, flatulence is not amusing. "The whole issue of flatulence is

one where taboos predominate, and you get all sorts of merry mirth," he said with evident irritation.

"Flatulence and sort of tummy rumbles have had very little serious attention — until Irritable Bowel Syndrome."

Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) covers a wide variety of symptoms including bloating, diarrhoea, constipation and excessive bowel gas. Doctors do not know exactly what causes it, although diet, stress and chemicals have all been blamed.

As many as one in five people in developed countries suffer from it to some degree, and Dr. Leakey says that fact alone is enough to justify his studies.

"Because it is now realised that IBS is an important cause of lost work days in Britain, there is now starting to be serious medical interest," he said.

The trouble is, no one seems to take Dr. Leakey or his Cambridge-based Micro-Research Company, Peas and Beans Ltd, seriously. He has been unable to get grants for his work from any government or industry.

So he has teamed up with M-Scan, a small British company specialising in environmental chemistry.

"What they have is highly efficient chemical sniffing equipment," Dr. Leakey says without the hint of a smile.

Their technology helped perfect the flatometer, which Dr. Leakey is using to determine the components of flatulence.

Once they identify those, they can decide what elements need to be

barred out of beans to make them flavourous without producing an unwanted fragrance.

"If one wants to breed for qualitative characteristics in a food plant like beans, it's necessary to have a quantitative technology for measuring the things you are breeding," he said.

"I think we think we are contributing a new tool."

The basic components of human wind are hydrogen, methane and carbon dioxide. These in and of themselves are odourless.

What interests Dr. Leakey are the "volatile organic compounds" that make flatulence smell bad and which could be blamed for irritating the gut.

"Using the apparatus, cathetering the gas from flatulent and non-flatulent beans, we actually chemically analysed the gases... looking for the

organic volatile gases," he said.

He found that people produce a range of gases in their flatus. "There is about a 10 to one difference in the flatus gas of acetone and two propanol... two simple organic chemicals."

He tested beans known to produce wind and a more user-friendly variety, and found the same range of difference. Dr. Leakey has already produced a non-flatulent bean, which he is test-marketing in France.

Based on a bean renowned in Chile for a lack of gas-producing qualities, Dr. Leakey called his bean versatile and hardy.

"We developed a bean that is extremely nice to eat and has a good skin texture and can be grown in this country and Canada as well," he said. "It appeared to have higher digestibility and lower flatulence."

## ANSWERS

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Sir Oswald Mosley
2. Westminster Abbey
3. Richard M. Nixon
4. Bill Clinton; John Gower; John Dryden; Graham Bell; Christopher Wren; Christopher Columbus; Vincenzo Bellini

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### BRAIN TEASERS

- (A). One man, one woman, and one child.
- (B). Harry and Barry are two of a set of triplets.
- (C). The word is NOON.
- (D). You could have given AARVARK, AARD-WOLF, AASVOGEL, EEL, IIWI, LLAMA and OONT.

Perhaps you thought of others, though?

WEEKEND CROSSWORD NOT RECEIVED



## Letter from Mashhad

## 'God is beautiful and loves beauty'

By Liesl Graz

THE MAN in black shows me a brochure with lurid pictures of horribly burnt people. "That," pointing to one of the most grisly, "is my brother, Mohammad." Ali, as we shall call him, is returning from Mashhad where he had gone to commemorate the first anniversary of the bombing that went off in the shrine of the Imam Reza. Ali went to pray in the shrine, the holiest pilgrimage site in Iran, about 1,000 kilometres east of Tehran, in the province of Khorasan. Mashhad, which means the place of martyrdom, grew up around the tomb of Reza, the eighth Shiite imam and heir to the Abbaside caliphate. Reza died in what was then the

small town of Sanabad in 817, after eating some of the province's excellent grapes. The story grew, apparently without a shred of evidence, that he had been poisoned by emissaries of the reigning Caliph. Ma'mun. He was buried near the tomb of Ma'mun's own father, Harun Al Rashid, about whom not much is said these days, irrevocably associated as he is with Baghdad.

The shrine is one of the glories of Persian art and architecture; the most ancient building now visible dates from the 14th century. Not many signs remain of last year's bomb, although the friends who took me there carefully showed me the place. New building is going on around the shrine.

to make it even more splendid. It is already something of a miracle, a place of intense spirituality and calm on a circular island in the midst of a town of close to two million inhabitants, its most a ring road, partially underground, built during the time of the shah. It is also the focus of the most intense tourist traffic in Iran. Something like 14 million pilgrims come to Mashhad every year, most of them in summer. The impossibility of going to the great Iraqi shrines in Kerbala and Najaf has made it the foremost Shiite pilgrimage centre in the world, where the sick come to be cured and the well to pay homage.

The pilgrimage business is booming. Mashhad is too

reform most places for pilgrims to drop by for a day trip; the average stay, as far as can be determined, is more likely a week and new hotels are going up all over the city. There will be in the luxury category, apparently geared to attract visitors from the Gulf who have so far had difficulty being accommodated in the style to which they have become accustomed.

Mashhad is the provincial capital of Khorasan, one of Iran's richest agricultural provinces, with close to six million inhabitants and an area larger than the British Isles. It is very close to Tus, the home of the poet Ferdowsi and not far from Neishapur (Nishapur), another of the great medieval cities of these

parts, where Omar Khayyam was born and buried. After decades of being somewhat at the end of the world, it has suddenly taken on a new commercial life: it is the crossroads where the roads to Ashkhabad, capital of ex-Soviet Turkmenistan, and Herat in Afghanistan meet those coming from Tehran and Baluchistan.

In May, before the police cracked down on the black market money-changers, visitors were coming in large enough numbers from the old USSR to warrant the appearance of hand-lettered signs in Russian and shopkeepers were doing a roaring business in foodstuffs from textiles and everything to Iranian-made fridges and imported

VCRs. Then the rial, whose stress price has fallen to 7,000 to a dollar, was forced back to an official rate of 3,000 and the Turkmen business went into an instant decline. The merchants are sanguine about it, sure that the crack-down is only temporary.

The most surprising thing about Mashhad is the temper of the place. I had been warned that it is the most conservative city in Iran (with the possible exception of Qom), often tense and difficult for foreigners to manage. The hated Komitah were said to be almost perpetually on the rampage and the locals in consequence particularly circumspect in dealing with anyone who appeared to come from outside the

Shiite orthodoxy. Wrong—or at least wrong now.

Yes, you do have to wear a chador to visit the holy shrine if you are female, a full-fledged chador and not the more Westernised mantoo—that goes for Iranians as well as foreigners. Once in your chador, the first surprise is that the women guards at the outer door actually smile at you; one even cracked a joke the second time I came through. In contrast to what happened to me in Kerbala a few years ago, there were no scowling mullahs to protest the presence of an infidel. In fact, there were remarkably few mullahs visible at all. I was reminded of the Sufi maxim, "God is beautiful and loves beauty." The beauty ex-

tends beyond the shrine buildings to the fountains, to the city's well-kept parks and gardens, and to the amazing colours, pinks and turquoises and sky blue, of the cloaks that began to appear on the Mashhadi women just as soon as the strictest days of mourning of Ashura (the commemoration of the martyrdom of Hussein, the Prophet's grandson) were over.

There was an atmosphere of serenity in Mashhad that was only broken by the long queues of Afghans getting ready to return home. By no means all of them wanted to leave the country where some had been living for over 15 years.

Middle East International

## Twenty years on, Helsinki accords seek new role

By Sara Henley  
Reuter

HELSINKI — Twenty years ago on August 1, one of the hottest days of the cold war, the heads of state of 35 countries gathered here to sign a declaration which some said would be a death warrant for Communism.

Leonid Brezhnev, Gerald Ford, Erich Honecker, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Nicolae Ceausescu and Olof Palme were among the signatories, in sweltering heat, of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, which opened a chink in the Iron Curtain through which sworn enemies from East and West could talk.

Bloody, bitter regional conflicts have replaced the nuclear-charged superpower standoff that then divided Europe, and the forum born of the act is striving to carve out a role in new fields which are fed not by dogma, but by hatred.

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) laid down the first formal recognition of Europe's post-war borders — including the Soviet Union's. But crucially, it also enshrined a com-

mitment to human rights which Communist governments were to find hard to ignore.

"The principles of the Helsinki Final Act have actually won the cold war," Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told a recent seminar in Moscow. "They still retain their relevance."

His view may surprise many who have never even heard of the CSCE — or OSCE, as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe has been renamed in a bid to beef it up. With a secretariat in Vienna, today's institution employs a total of 119 and has a 1995 budget of just \$33 million.

In 1975 Helsinki, then a grey city seen by many outsiders as a semi-satellite of its big Soviet neighbour, was overrun for the summit. A Baltic ferry was commandeered to house the media, and the street windows were "eased out of town."

"Everywhere you went there enemies smiling, talking to each other," recalled one diplomat who witnessed the 1975 summit early in his career. "We were all full of confidence."

However, many commentators have since dis-

missed the forum — which evolved into a rolling diplomatic caravan of 53 states, mainly in Europe as well as the United States and Canada — as a cumbersome talking-shop, just another United Nations acronym.

The OSCE can usually reach decisions only by consensus — diplomats recall anxious hours at one summit when petty filibustering by tiny Malta threatened to kill an entire deal.

And it has no powers of enforcement. OSCE decisions depend entirely on a member's political will.

Looking now at the U.N.'s devastating failure to secure safe areas for Bosnian Muslims in the former Yugoslavia, it is hard to see the practical worth of a peacekeeper which at one level can work only by asking armed opponents to be civilised.

But for its supporters, that approach is paradoxically one of the OSCE's strengths. They say being a broad church which no one state dominates helps secure neutrality, and boosts trust.

Current talks between Russia and breakaway Chechnya stem at least partly from the day OSCE

diplomats came knocking, uninvited or unwelcome, in Chechnya and Moscow.

"We didn't know if we'd be let in to Chechnya," said one member of the group, requesting anonymity. "In Moscow, most people didn't want to know. It was 'an internal problem.'"

By dint of perseverance and an approach that he said no Western diplomat could have taken, the broadly based OSCE party "managed to convince the Russians that they simply couldn't handle it on their own," he said.

The OSCE has also patiently sponsored peace talks between factions in the long-drawn conflict in the enclave of Nagorno-Karabach, and plans to send a peacekeeping mission there if a political accord can eventually be reached.

It has mediated in delicate conflict-prevention talks on Ukraine and the Baltic states.

But OSCE officials admit that they are powerless unless opposing factions see a need for peace.

The difference between Chechnya and Bosnia is the will, said one OSCE diplomat. Russia is motivated partly by a craving,

rooted in economic necessity, not to be ostracised by the West.

But this is irrelevant to Bosnian Serbs, who are already outcasts, with everything to win and nothing to lose. "We just say we can be neutral ground to talk," he said. "But there's little point in talking if you're still fighting."

Former Yugoslavia has been suspended from the OSCE.

For Russia, the OSCE is the only forum where it is on equal terms with the United States and every other European country, big or small.

The OSCE is all about ostpolitik, said one Western diplomat. "It's about keeping Russia in — educating them if you want to be patronising." Another defined the OSCE's role as "not a judge, but a doctor."

Since it was established, the OSCE has been trying to capitalise on countries' will to compromise.

A Russian veteran of the 1975 summit argued that Communism really fell because its economic system was unworkable.

But he agreed that the pledge to honour human rights — which some believe paved the way for pro-democracy movements

in eastern Europe and, eventually, glasnost — was the price the Soviet Union had to pay for international recognition.

"It was a compromise that Russia — the Soviet Union — was ready to make," he said. "The Chinese think differently."

Now, he said, Russia is prepared to continue compromising to work towards some level of greater autonomy for Chechnya, in order to secure its own standing as an equal partner in Europe.

"There are things (in the OSCE) we want to change," he said. The consensus model is unwieldy. As other areas of conflict — migration, ecological problems, minorities — appear, Russia and other states must seek a new, viable, response.

"We also want a change in agreements on conventional weapons: to reflect the end of the Warsaw Pact," he said. "And we are very worried about a new divide in Europe between rich and poor — look at the U.S.-Mexican border to see the risks."

The forum's anniversary should be "neither a party nor a funeral," he said. "It's alive and well, and its spirit is living in Helsinki."

## In Seoul, survival was matter of luck

By Sang-Hun Choe  
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Park Sung-Hyun had a one-sentence answer when she was asked how she survived 16 days in the rubble of a collapsed shopping mall.

"I was very, very lucky," the 19-year-old salesclerk said from her hospital bed, her hands on a buddhist rosary that her grandmother believes brought her luck when the five-story building fell June 29.

Park was the last survivor to be pulled alive from the wrecked mall, and the rubble has now been almost completely cleared away.

She and two other young people rescued a few days earlier were dubbed "miracle" survivors. But the credit might go more to youth and strength, rainwater seeping through the ruins — and simple luck.

The collapse of the five-story Sampoong department store into a heap of smoking rubble was South Korea's worst peacetime disaster. The death toll stands at 458. Nearly 160 are listed as missing.

Only 27 people were rescued alive, including one group of 24 cleaners who were saved because they were changing clothes after their work shift in a basement room that remained intact. They were pulled out two days after the collapse.

The tales of the three long-term survivors raised agonising questions about whether more might have been saved.

Rescue workers privately acknowledged that their tools and know-how were limited. When Park was rescued, authorities had already been using heavy equipment for 12 days — leaving open the grisly possibility that others who survived the collapse might have been crushed by the rubble-clearing effort.

Saving lives depended more on chance than on modern equipment or rescue techniques, officials and volunteer workers said. "Our work here was like digging through garbage dumps with hoes," said Lee Byung-Hee, a rescue official. "Poking here and there, you had to be very lucky to find a hole large enough to hold a human body."

In the first several days, fire engines poured water to quell black toxic smoke from burning cars in the underground parking garage, fearing the smoke could suffocate survivors. The water was salvation for some, a killer for others.

Choi Myong-Sok, 20, pulled out 9 1/2 days after the cave-in, said the water from fire trucks and monsoon rains drowned some people trapped near him. But Yoo Chi-Hwan, 18, said she survived on that water for 12 days.

The decision to bring in heavy equipment after only four days was spurred by the summer heat, which

was rapidly decomposing bodies in the ruins and raising fears of an outbreak of disease.

Rescuers had never encountered a disaster of this magnitude.

"I have seen on T.V. what buildings looked like in the Oklahoma bombing and Kobe earthquakes. But I have never imagined a building could collapse like this," said Paek Il-Sung, another rescue official.

In Kobe, few people were found alive after the few days following a devastating quake Jan. 17. Fire swept the city after the quake, and winter cold probably killed others who were pinned in the ruins.

In Oklahoma City, storms made the search for survivors harder, and the violence of the explosion killed many victims outright. Only a few survivors were dug out of the wreckage, and no one was found alive after the first night.

Sophisticated listening devices were quickly brought in to comb the rubble in Oklahoma. In Seoul, the only high-tech device used was a set of U.S. sound detectors flown from Hawaii. But it arrived too late and its use was largely ineffective because of the noise in the area.

One volunteer worker, speaking on condition of anonymity, said city officials seemed more interested in briefing their own higher-ups than in heading calls for flashlights, drills and other simple tools.

Many citizens, responding to appeals for help by T.V. stations, rushed to the scene with household tools but were blocked by police on orders not to allow unnecessary personnel into the area, newspapers reported.

Relatives of victims argued that swifter rescue work and more vigorous involvement by the central government could have saved more lives.

The last three survivors were found largely by chance. They were all found hemmed in tiny pockets of air, barely large enough for them to lie down in. Rescuers did not know of their presence until they heard their feeble cries for help.

Doctors had difficulty explaining how they survived, except that they were strong, young and healthy, not exposed to cold weather and had access to some water.

Park claimed she had nothing at all to drink, but humans normally cannot survive so long without water.

She is South Korea's longest-surviving person trapped underground. Previously, a miner was trapped for nearly 16 days by a coal mine accident in 1968. Park's father calls her "South Korea's luckiest girl."

## House endorses law

(Continued from page 1)

the government.

The final amendments, approved on Wednesday by the House, condition land sale to foreigners with reciprocal treatment of Jordanians in the foreigners' country of origin. In Israel, the state owns 93 per cent of the land and bans the sale of private ownership to foreigners.

The amendments also make land sale to foreigners contingent upon the government's approval. All property sale to foreigners will also be published in the daily newspapers.

"When land sale deals are published in the local newspapers, Jordanians will be aware of every step taken by the government in this regard and will consequently have the opportunity to contest its decision," said Mr. Dughmi.

Mr. Dughmi said that the law also covers dual nationalities, Israelis.

"And even if the land were to be sold to foreigners, that does not mean that they are going to dominate us," he added.

Although there were no objections and not many deputies were asking questions, Mr. Dughmi insisted on explaining the reasons behind introducing the amendments to the draft.

The deputies who spoke during the five-hour session

were mainly the leftist or centrist deputies who offered many proposals for amendments that were all rejected by the majority of the House.

The law is in line with the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty that was signed on Oct. 26 last year and ended nearly five decades of enmity with Israel.

Although Islamist deputies did not participate actively in the discussions, they objected against procedures. Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber boycotted the session saying that he was prevented from expressing his opinions and Bassam Emoush contested the House secretariat's vote counting.

Hamzeh Mansour also criticised Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Education Ra'uf Rawabdeh for saying that the deputies who voted against referring the draft to the joint judiciary and financial committee will also vote this time against the draft as a whole.

"This is against the law. You cannot possibly make generalisations about the deputies' stands," Mr. Mansour, the IAF spokesperson, said. In addition to 13 Islamist deputies present, Saleh Sha'wath, Talal Obaidat, Toujan Faisal, Khalil Haddadin, Bassam Haddadin and Mustafa Shuneikat voted against the law.

Eight lawmakers were absent from the session.

## Muslims flee Zepa

(Continued from page 1)

man rights activists.

Signing a letter urging passage were Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security advisor, Frank Carlucci, former secretary of defence and national security advisor and noted astronomer Carl Sagan.

The Muslim countries meanwhile are giving the West a last chance to take concrete action in Bosnia before defying the U.N. arms embargo, Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said Wednesday.

"The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) contact group is waiting for the resolution adopted in London to materialise," he said, referring to the international contact group's threat of action against the Serbs.

"If it does not materialise, everyone will draw the necessary conclusions," following the OIC's decision in Geneva last week to ignore the U.N. embargo and arm the Bosnian Serbs," Mr. Moussa told reporters.

He said the decision had not yet been implemented but warned that Muslim countries would not wait for approval from the U.N. Security Council.

The international contact group on Bosnia warned the Bosnian Serbs last Friday of a "substantive and decisive" response if they attacked the

U.N.-designated safe area of Gorazde.

In Bosnia itself U.N. peacekeepers struggled on Wednesday to carry out an orderly evacuation of thousands of Muslim refugees from the fallen enclave of Zepa and avert a repeat of atrocities blamed on Serb troops two weeks ago.

Muslim women, children and old men who had lived for more than two years under siege crossed front lines into government-held Kljanc, many crying and bewildered.

Bosnian Serb tanks swept into the eastern "safe area" of Zepa on Tuesday after bombarding the enclave and its estimated 17,000 people for more than a week.

U.N. military spokesman Colonel Gerard Dubois said a second convoy of 27 buses carrying about 1,000 refugees had left Zepa, following the earlier evacuation of about 1,400 civilians. Two Ukrainian U.N. peacekeepers were on each bus as escort.

"We will push very hard for as much escort and access to these convoys as possible," said U.N. spokesman Chris Gunness.

"We obviously want to avoid a situation in which atrocities are committed as they clearly were in Srebrenica," he said in Zagreb.

## What Bosnia? Americans prefer home-grown scandal

By Slobodan Lekic  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With war raging in Bosnia, many Americans seem preoccupied by domestic distractions: Hollywood scandals, heat waves, congressional investigations and, maybe most of all, murder trials.

The never-ending O.J. Simpson saga and the trial of Susan Smith, who has confessed to killing her two infant sons, grab the headlines. British actor Hugh Grant's escapade with a prostitute was another highlight of the media's traditional summer silliness.

More serious topics — the continuing Republican assault on the Clinton administration, for instance — also have diverted the public eye from the Bosnian war.

There are congressional hearings on Whitewater, a failed Arkansas land deal that involved President Clinton, and on the 1993 raid of a religious sect's compound in Waco, Texas, where 91 people died.

Interest in foreign issues is often limited to issues involving the United States, like the establishment of relations with Vietnam.

Only recently, with Serb attacks on eastern Bosnian enclaves and refugees' accounts of atrocities, has press attention to Bosnia picked up.

The administration's struggle to cope with Serb aggression, placate congressional critics and avoid damaging NATO is receiving considerable coverage, particularly in newspapers.

Television, where most Americans get their news, has lagged behind,

although recently it too has given the story prominence.

More television time, though, is devoted to analyses of the cases of Smith and Simpson, the former U.S. football star charged with killing his ex-wife and her friend.

"Networks devote significant time to trial coverage and other tabloid headline stories that really trivialise the news process, because the news shows are run by producers interested only in the latest ratings for their shows," said Jeff Chester, an analyst in the Washington-based Centre of Media Education.

"Even if they truly wanted to focus on important news, the need to generate huge ratings, to beat the competition, marginalises that kind of programming," he said.

Nonetheless, the Bosnian war is gradually assuming importance as a domestic political topic. With the Republicans in Congress intent on stopping U.S. compliance with the Bosnian arms embargo, the war is emerging as the 1996 elections approach.

And when Captain Scott O'Grady's F-16 fighter was shot down in Bosnia by a Serb missile in June, the jubilation following his rescue received tremendous coverage.

In every country, immediate events are always in the forefront of public attention, while distant events are quickly forgotten," said media critic Ben Bagdikian, former dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California at Berkeley.

## Palestinian, Israeli talks resume

(Continued from page 1)

was clear that deadline would also go by the wayside.

The security source said many differences remain, and the bombing will make it difficult for Israel to go ahead with the planned release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners.

The bombing, which took place in the middle of morning rush hour in front of Tel Aviv's bustling diamond exchange, shook Israel's sense of security after a three-

month lull in successful terror attacks.

In the past, militant groups have formally claimed responsibility for such attacks on Israelis, even releasing videotapes of the suicide bombers and praising them as martyrs. But an unusual silence has surrounded Monday's attack.

Israeli media reports said a top PLO official identified the bomber as a 23-year-old Hamas member who had recently returned to the Gaza Strip after years working in

Abu Dhabi. Israeli security sources also said there were rumours of an Abu Dhabi connection.

But Nasser Yousef, head of the Palestinian police, said the man was not the bomber. And Mr. Rabin said Wednesday that the bomber was between 30 and 40 years old.

"We have no information on who he was," Mr. Rabin said. "There is no certainty about where he came from. There is no certainty about which organisation was responsible."

Mr. Rabin said Israel and the Palestinian authority were working together to try to find those responsible.

A Palestinian police source told the Associated Press that he didn't think the attacker came from Gaza or the West Bank. Police searched Gaza without success for any missing people, he said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday the talks would move to Europe but there has been no official confirmation.



## U.S. businessmen explore investment opportunities in Gaza, West Bank

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Executives from 15 private American companies met Wednesday with Palestinian officials and businessmen to explore opportunities for private investment in the impoverished Gaza Strip.

Christopher Finn of the Overseas Private Investment Corp., a government agency that provides assistance to American companies investing overseas, said he was impressed with the potential for investment in Gaza and the amount of construction. "On a per capita basis this area is seeing more construc-

tion today than in Berlin," he told reporters. "That has huge ramifications for potential investors."

Mr. Finn said he hoped this week's meetings would lead to "solid ventures that create jobs and help stimulate future economic development."

There has been little private foreign investment in the PLO-run Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, mostly because of unstable security conditions.

The Palestinian private sector has spent \$540 million

In the past year to build 166 high-rise buildings and gas stations, restaurants and hotels.

American financier Talat Othman said his company was working with an American equity group to develop a private raised and managed \$50 million equity fund that will be active in Gaza, the West Bank and other Arab countries.

The fundraising will take place over the next few months and be completed by January, he said.

## Kuwait's bank says share buy back is an investment

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's top commercial bank, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), said on Wednesday it planned to buy up to 10 per cent of its own shares for investment purposes.

Economists said the move would probably reverse a two-year decline in the price of the exchange's leading stock.

"We think it's good investment, purely as an investment," a company official said. "How much we will buy we really don't know. We don't have any budget in mind. But basically within a certain price range it's a good investment."

The central bank said on Tuesday it had given NBK permission to buy back up to

10 per cent of its stock within six months from July 19. NBK, one of the largest banks in the Arab World in terms of shareholders' equity, represents about a fifth of the total market capitalisation of Kuwait's stock exchange.

A 10 per cent buy back would cost over 80 million dinars (\$266 million) at current market prices. Economists said the move would boost the NBK share price by lowering the number of NBK shares in the market — currently 1.403 billion shares.

The official, who declined to be identified, denied market talk that the bank's move was in response to investor pressure to raise the stock price, but acknowledged investors were not happy with the decline in the value of their holdings.

The stock price has not reflected NBK's performance as Kuwait's most profitable bank. It traded at over 900 fils when the bourse

reopened in 1992 following disruption caused by the Gulf crisis, but slipped 300 fils over the next two years.

It held steady in the first half of 1995 at around 560, apart from a brief slip to 480 last month, while the exchange's overall price index has risen 20 per cent since January.

NBK paid a 1994 cash dividend of 30 fils per share and a stock dividend of five shares for every 100 shares.

NBK raised net profit by 16 per cent to 30.7 million dinars (\$102 million) in the first half of 1995. Full year profit for 1994 rose 5.7 per cent to 55 million dinars (\$183 million).

The stock closed at 580 fils on Tuesday.

The official said the stock had not benefited from the exchange's rally because of a perception that there were too many new shares in the market and because investors' attention had switched to an increasing number of other good stocks.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Concentrate on how to handle a close ally since you have fine ideas and can improve your association and become more successful.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You understand how you can gain greater efficiency at your tasks today, so get busy making the necessary improvements.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You can arrange for the pleasures with congenials today or later tonight which will be more satisfying than usual.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You can make those changes at home today which will make life there more harmonious and pleasurable to you and loved ones.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Plan time today for conversations with outside allies and gain their ideas. Make sure you drive carefully while on the highway.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Do whatever you can to make your property more functional and valuable today and remember that a little pain can work wonders.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Get your own talents working like a charm and gain the assistance of those who are brilliant today for your success.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Go to the right sources for any needed data to become more successful. Show your mate that you have a sense of humor.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Use good judgment and get into the various new interests which could give you more success today and later tonight.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Get into the business world early this morning and get much accomplished today and make a good impression on a bigwig.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Get into new project which can help you to further other interests you have. Think along constructive lines.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Be more thoughtful of the needs of your mate today and you become happier. A conversation with an expert in business can be helpful.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Study your practical affairs well and you will know how to advance more quickly today and tonight with less effort.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Sit down with as many associates as you can today and make fine new agreements with them for your success.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Get odds and ends of the week's tasks finished today and then schedule wisely, so that you can produce more.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You can make those arrangements for fun which have been difficult before today. You can easily increase mutual happiness.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Some problematical affair at home can best be solved if you study it to a more objective way and then act wisely.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Go to the right sources today for the data you need and get it. Then handle the correspondence which are important to your welfare.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Thinking big where property is concerned can bring about a plan which will get you excellent results today.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) How to get your finest ambitions realised should be first on the agenda today, whether of a personal or business nature.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) A clever advisor will come forth with ideas and support for your betterment, if you contact him today.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Look to a dynamic friend today for the assistance you need in order to gain what you most want. Be with a group this evening.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Get your career improved with the aid of a bigwig today who has your interests at heart. You can handle that credit problem very easily.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Study your new ideas well, today and know what their potential is. Make the right contacts who can help you to advance in life.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

**JORDAN TIMES**  
TEL: 667171

## Saudi Arabia may balance budget despite oil price slide

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia may still be able to balance its budget this year despite a recent slide in world oil prices, bankers in Saudi Arabia said on Wednesday.

Estimates for this year's Saudi budget have swung up and down with the price of oil on world markets, which provides the vast bulk of Saudi government revenues.

First, Saudi Arabia forecast a \$4 billion deficit in the 1995 budget with projected oil revenues for the world's largest oil exporter of \$33 billion out of a total \$36 billion income.

Then the kingdom's chances of climbing out of deficit improved sharply in the first five months of this year, as oil prices rallied on the back of strong U.S. gasoline demand.

The fall in oil prices, begun in May but accelerated since June, has now largely ruled this out, bankers say.

But world oil prices are mostly holding above the \$14.00-\$14.50 a barrel range which Riyadh budgeted for, bankers say, and Saudi Arabia could still balance the budget.

"The (1995) budget could come in as balanced," Kevin Taecker, chief economist at the Saudi American Bank said.

Saudi Arabia has in the past 12 years suffered large budget deficits because of heavy spending and weak oil prices. Oil prices fell below forecast the previous year, recording a \$10.7 billion deficit although the budget had been cut by 20 per cent.

One well placed oil industry expert told Reuters last month that the kingdom earned \$2.3 billion more than forecast by the end of May because of higher oil prices.

"Clearly the oil price was higher than anticipated in the early part of the year. It had a definite impact, improving the country's reserve position and liquidity," a banker in the kingdom who requested anonymity said.

Saudi Arabian planners appear confident prices will pick up again later this year after a traditional summer weakness, wiping out the deficit or even achieving a slight surplus.

The International Energy Agency estimates that oil de-

mand will grow by 400,000 b/d between July and September.

International Benchmark crude Brent reached a high of \$19.38 a barrel on May 1 but sank to fresh ten-month lows of \$15.41 a barrel on Monday as the U.S. rally lost steam.

"Up to June, Saudi Arabia was looking at a surplus but now the question is whether it is looking at a balance," Mr. Taecker said.

Saudi Arabia's budgeted oil price is an average of its five main export grades based on different values realised in its main markets of the U.S., Far East and Europe.

Prices for other crudes used by Saudi Arabia in its calculation of the budgeted oil price, West Texas Intermediate, Dubai and Oman Export Grades, have also followed the downward trend also seen in Brent prices.

But bankers say that Saudi state oil firm Saudi ARAMCO may have compensated for part of the decline in prices by selling more of its better quality oil which can achieve higher prices in consumer markets because of its higher gasoline yields.

## Countries agree to global accord on financial services

GENEVA (AP) — A tentative agreement was reached Wednesday on a three-year accord to open up financial services worldwide after Japan said it was ready to join, trade officials said.

Formal confirmation is expected Friday to implement the accord, which is to last until the end of 1997 in hopes that a better, more permanent arrangement can be reached, officials said.

The United States is the only major country to opt out of the accord although it will be able to benefit from the deal that will make it easier for banks, insurance companies and securities firms to operate worldwide.

Renato Ruggiero, director-general of the World Trade Organisation, said the agreement had been reached in substance by Wednesday morning.

"All the countries that had reservations about leaving their best offers on the table have now announced that they will be able to maintain those offers," said another trade official.

Mr. Ruggiero said the deal arranged behind the scenes would have to be confirmed at another meeting at the World Trade Organisation on Friday, the deadline for agreement.

South Korean Ambassador Seung Ho said before negotiations met at the trade organisation Wednesday morning that South Korea and Japan, two main holdouts, had agreed to join.

In Seoul, the ministry of finance and economy confirmed that South Korea had decided to join the interim global financial services pact proposed by the European Union.

In Tokyo, Japanese officials refused to confirm that the agreement had been reached, but Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemoto told a news conference that Japan was still trying to meet U.S. thinking as much as possible.

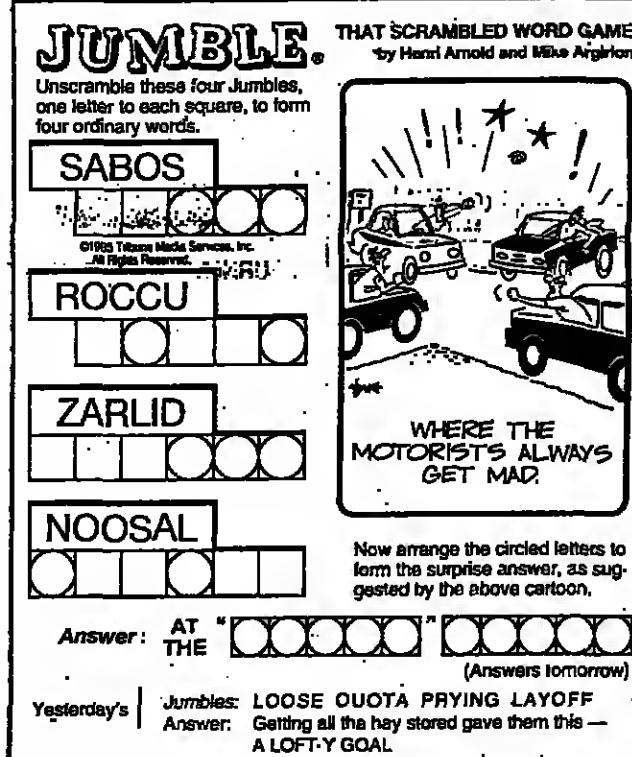
However, Japan's leading financial newspaper, the Nihon Keizai, said in its afternoon editions that Japan had agreed in principle to join the short-term accord to open up financial services markets.

It said the move was triggered by a note from President Clinton on Wednesday in which he promised Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama that the United States would guarantee a bilateral agreement to extend reciprocity in the financial services sector, the report said.

"However, without the U.S. participation (in the global accord), financial services remain a sector that could cause an international trade dispute in the future," Nihon Keizai said.

Financial services is a huge potential growth area for the world, but it was left out of the 1993 Uruguay round global accord to liberalise trade.

After 18 months of negotiations, the United States caused an uproar last month by pulling out a day before negotiations were to end on the grounds that the offers from some countries to open their markets to international competition were inadequate.



### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



## Iran sells \$3.7b worth of goods to Japan

NICOSIA (AP) — An increase in non-oil exports helped Iran achieve \$3.7 billion worth of trade with Japan, the Islamic Republic News Agency said Wednesday.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said \$1.75 billion worth of oil derivatives and non-oil goods were exported and \$910.88 million imported from Japan last year.

The report said Iran exported \$25.3 million worth of pistachio nuts, \$17 million worth of woolen carpets and \$20.5 million worth of caviar to Japan.

No comparative totals were given for 1993.

### THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker

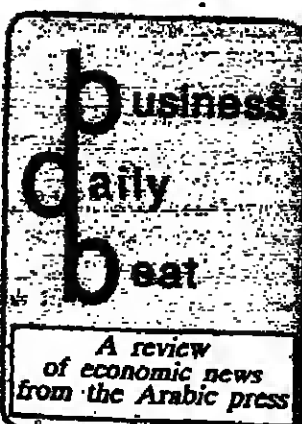
**ACROSS**

- Yegge's targets
- Major work
- Simpleton
- Spatter about
- Crawling
- Curtain pr
- madden
- A Person
- Zone
- Blighted place
- "Water, —, nor any drop to — drink"
- and Stimpy
- London site
- Outdoor bank
- inits.
- Indistinct
- Limited
- Spelling —
- Ladies
- point (center of attraction)
- Brando classic
- Actress Erin
- Office notes
- Modern: pref.
- Charlotte or Emily
- A Reiner
- Thesaurus entry: abbr
- Force
- Corn unit
- Statement of pessimism
- Knife
- Gambling town
- Sharp
- Fork part
- 65 Surrounded by
- Show again
- Lulu
- Fourteen
- "Sesame Street" name

**DOWN**

- Gush forth
- Part of TAE
- accompli
- Organic compound
- Pentake
- King of Norway
- Uncut
- Exploiter
- execution (reprise)
- Shame
- 11 Heraldic border
- Gloomy
- "This one's —"
- Provide with income
- Gentle gusts of air
- Hiroshima devastator
- Drift
- Paris subway
- Moslem scholar
- Poetry
- ingredient
- Hallowed things
- Supreme Court justice
- John
- Entered
- Undersea skipper
- Yield control of
- Clad
- Catch
- Topic
- Cognizant
- Andromeda
- Ratio words
- Skinny
- Oenophile's drink
- Step — I
- Metallic vein
- Revolue
- Stragg case
- Descartes





# Applications for telephone lines total 120,000

Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Sarairoh said there are 340,000 telephone lines in the Kingdom, and there are 120,000 applications for telephone lines presented to the ministry. Briefing a Cabinet session on his ministry's projects and future plans, Mr. Sarairoh said the ministry has adopted expansion projects that would be completed in 1998. He said the plans entail having about 250,000 new telephone lines and added that the projects would cost \$223 million. At the same meeting Tuesday, the Council of Ministers decided to adopt stricter measures in implementing labour protocols signed with other Arab countries in a bid to reduce the number of foreign workers in the Kingdom. The Cabinet, discussing recommendations by the Ministry of Labour, decided to give a three-month deadline for illegal workers to obtain the needed work permits. The Cabinet decided to authorise the local governors to control the labour market in the various parts of the Kingdom in cooperation with the ministry (Al Ra'i).

The Tenders Department is currently doing a study on the establishment of a Jordanian contractors' bank before the start of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held in Amman in October. The study is being conducted in cooperation with the Jordanian Construction Contractors Association, according to Department Director General George Haddad. Mr. Haddad called on local contracting companies to form mergers to be able to face competition by foreign companies which can carry out major projects. At a meeting with members of the association, Mr. Haddad said it was irrational to have companies with a capital of about JD 10 million carry out projects worth hundreds of millions of dinars (Al Ra'i).

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing will soon start conducting maintenance works on the road linking Sweileh with the Queen Alia International Airport. Director of the ministry's roads department Mohammad Ensour said costs to repair the 38-kilometre road amount to JD 3.5 million. Mr. Ensour said the World Bank will finance 70 per cent of the project costs and the other 30 per cent will be covered by the treasury. He added that the road will remain open during the project's period, expected to last six months (Al Ra'i).

Jordan will import 20,000 tonnes of American rice during August. Importers said the Ministry of Supply has recently invited bids to supply it with rice, noting that the ministry offered \$442 per tonne. The traders said the agreed price per tonne is \$56 more than a tonne of Australian rice purchased by the ministry earlier (Petra).

## Austerity in Kuwait — Swiss watches on credit

KUWAIT (R) — Five years after Iraqis invaded, rich Kuwaitis still buy \$10,000 Swiss watches for their teenage children but pay more often on credit than with cash.

"The years of surplus are over," said economist Jassem Al Saadoun. "To preserve the old expenditure patterns, there has been recourse to borrowing at the expense of the future. This has led to the present crisis."

The oil-rich and sparsely-populated Gulf Arab state still ranks among the world's richest nations. A 1994 World Bank study ranked Kuwait tenth in gross national product (GNP) per capita — right after Germany — at \$23,350 annually.

Luxury American and European cars still cruise the palm-lined Gulf Boulevard, but increasingly have to view for space with Japanese economy hatchbacks.

Lavish birthday presents like luxury Swiss watches are commonplace among the rich, and planes still ferry fresh flowers nightly from Europe for vast wedding parties at top hotels, but a painful restructuring of the economy lies ahead.

Kuwait dug deep into then-bulging coffers to help pay for the multinational Gulf war campaign to oust Iraq, which invaded and occupied Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

After the Iraqis were driven out by a U.S.-led coalition in the 1991 Gulf war, the government showed Kuwaitis, who make up 40 per cent of the 1.9 million population, with handouts. It shovelled yet more riches at its oil industry for repairs. It borrowed \$5.5 billion.

On the plus side, the oil industry, custodian of a tenth of the planet's oil reserves, has recovered pre-war capacity and a petrochemical industry is being built with private investment.

National wealth in 1994 of 7.214 billion dinars (\$24 billion) as measured by gross domestic product at current

prices regained 1989 levels for the first time since the war.

And the stock market is booming — albeit mainly because of moves in settle long-standing private sector bad debt.

The government has pledged to balance its books by the year 2000 and start rebuilding the foreign reserves that will help the country get by when oil runs out some time next century.

But reaching a consensus on what reforms are needed to turn the economy around is proving difficult.

Debate centres on how to restructure the economy to enable a small private sector to provide jobs for a growing workforce, and how to curb the cost of an extensive welfare state.

The government suggests privatising to boost the private sector's share of the economy, reducing the size of the public sector, trade liberalisation and repricing public services.

The parliamentary opposition would prefer to cut waste in the government, and specifically a defence procurement programme they see as extravagant and corrupt, before any attempt is made to raise revenue from higher utility charges or new taxes.

They seek moves to pre-

vent leading families taking what they allege are virtually monopolies in many areas of business.

They also want to stop a move by wealthy borrowers to soften repayment terms laid down by a 1993 law aimed at settling \$20 billion in had debt owed by some of the wealthiest in society.

The government wants to instill self-reliance and initiative and shrink a vast and slothful civil service, but cuts in perhaps the world's most lavish welfare state will entail political risks for a traditionally generous administration.

Kuwait would like to ease the double dependency it shares with its Gulf neighbours — on oil and on foreign workers who make up over half the 1.8 million population — but these remain only very long-term goals, diplomats say.

"What is required is to adjust living standards," said Elias Baroudi, chief economist at National Bank of Kuwait, a commercial bank.

"It's a slow process of change and education but it will ultimately happen. The level of public debate on this issue that we have seen in the past two years indicates that Kuwaitis are generally getting used to this."

## Tourism in Israel shows 15% increase in first half of '95

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's tourism ministry is eroding the peace process for a 15 per cent increase in tourism to Israel in the first half of 1995.

According to spokeswoman Orly Doron, 1.2 million tourists visited Israel between January and June. In June, tourism from the United States was up 17 per cent compared to the same month last year, she said.

Ms. Doron said the upward trend was due to increased confidence spawned

by the Arab-Israeli peace process and lower air fares from competition between the growing number of airlines flying to Israel.

She said Israel is conducting an aggressive marketing campaign in the United States aimed at encouraging Christian pilgrimage to the holy land.

"We are telling people that the holy land is a place that they can visit which is cheap and not dangerous," she said.

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 26/07/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PRV. CLOSING PRICE	CHGNG
ARAB BANK PSC	2220	1206830	215.500	213.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	131667	682552	4.610	4.580
BANK OF JORDAN	200	676	3.380	3.380
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	180	378	2.100	2.100
THE HOUSING BANK	400	4075	10.190	10.190
JORDAN GULF BANK	3130	3685	1.180	1.180
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	2638	9854	3.750	3.740
UNION BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	800	2143	4.330	4.290
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	100	308	4.000	3.980
ROYAL BANK FOR INVESTMENT	400	1478	3.700	3.680
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	53850	50682	1.090	1.080
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	3010	15992	5.300	5.300
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	1008	1873	1.880	1.860
<b>BANKS SECTOR</b>	<b>222440</b>	<b>1899513</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 177.26</b>	<b>CHGNG: -0.19%</b>
JORDAN INSURANCE	100	326	3.260	3.260
ARABIAN REAS INSURANCE	900	910	1.020	1.020
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	1200	3240	2.710	2.700
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	100	255	2.550	2.550
THE NATIONAL REAS INSURANCE	2484	7482	3.000	3.000
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	<b>4464</b>	<b>12451</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 125.82</b>	<b>CHGNG: -0.38%</b>
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	21500	36497	1.670	1.650
TRANS JORDAN ELECTRICITY	400	476	1.190	1.190
NATIONAL POWER & UTILITIES	1200	2867	2.390	2.390
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	500	525	1.050	1.050
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1584	1894	1.190	1.170
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSTRUCTION HOTELS	1758	3936	2.240	2.240
ARAB INVEST. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	5600	17985	3.240	3.200
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	<b>32639</b>	<b>63139</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 128.52</b>	<b>CHGNG: -0.63%</b>
ATTACHED COURT. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	750	580	1.210	1.170
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	2155	7895	3.690	3.660
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	2654	7709	3.030	3.030
THE ARAB POTASH	950	7778	8.190	8.050
JORDAN POTASH INDUSTRIES	1844	17402	10.480	10.350
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	100	330	3.300	3.300
ARAB FERTILISER INDUSTRIES	11922	60639	5.220	5.070
ARAB FERTILISER INDUSTRIES	250	630	2.520	2.520
ARAB FERTILISER INDUSTRIES	718	1557	2.160	2.160
ARAB INVESTMENT & INDUSTRIAL TRADING	7750	5906	1.770	1.760
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRIES	4880	24840	5.100	5.100
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	16201	7897	1.500	1.490
JORDAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	700	994	1.420	1.420
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	1250	5188	2.530	2.530
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	62760	68045	1.090	1.090
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2000	4800	2.400	2.400
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2000	1280	1.280	1.280
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	3225	15781	4.900	4.900
JORDAN SUGAR INDUSTRIES	800	1286	1.610	1.610
ARAB CENTER FOR PETROL. & CHEMICALS	230	950	2.230	2.200
UNIVERSAL REFINING INDUSTRIES	17500	59319	3.400	3.360
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	11350	23346	2.120	2.090
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	1985	3622	1.790	1.780
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>183287</b>	<b>326977</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 128.98</b>	<b>CHGNG: -0.38%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>412530</b>	<b>2291080</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 153.31</b>	<b>CHGNG: -0.29%</b>
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		114278		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		127287		

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## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3580/90	Deutsche marks
1.3922/32	Dutch guilders
1.5600/10	Swiss francs
1.1570/80	Belgian francs
28.63/67	French francs
4.8285/35	Italian lire
1597.62/6	Japanese yen
87.97/07	Swedish crowns
7.1150/50	Norwegian crowns
6.1810/60	Danish crowns
5.4180/30	
51.928/38	
One sterling	
One ounce of gold	
\$385.70/386.20	



## FIFA wants action over FA's match-rigging case

LONDON (AFP) — FIFA has called for action over the match-rigging allegations in English football, but the game's ruling body stopped short on Wednesday of calling for immediate suspensions.

FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper said he has asked the Football Association (FA) to take "urgent measures" after Bruce Grobbelaar, Hans Segers and John Fashanu were charged with conspiracy on Monday — but insisted it was not a call for them to be banned.

"I would stress above all else FIFA has not and has no intention of calling directly for players to be suspended," Cooper said. "The words 'suspension' and 'ban' have never been mentioned in this case."

"We are urging appropriate measures as the FA see fit. It is not a matter for FIFA."

However, he added: "We do have the precedent set in France in 1994 when Marseille were under investigation for match-fixing. The players

involved there were suspended during the inquiry. "That is by no means a direct precedent. There are certain parallels but no two cases are necessarily the same."

"Then, we said to the French FA to do what they thought fit and they decided to introduce a ban."

"Now we are asking the English FA to do what they feel appropriate. The key phrase is 'urgent measures.' We would still like them to come back to us and say where they are going."

The accused trio, now awaiting the start of legal proceedings at Southampton Magistrates Court on Oct. 11, were cleared by the FA on Monday to play in the Premiership — unless their clubs decided otherwise.

The FA also postponed their own inquiries until the legal proceedings were concluded.

Cooper said: "Maybe the FA might reconsider some aspects of their approach because legal proceedings could

take a long time. For the good of the image of the game, we need to make clear the position in the meantime."

"With all due respect to the laws of the land, the wheels of justice can turn slowly. Football authorities have certain powers to step in for the good of the game."

"We simply want to hear from the FA that, under the legal constraints they obviously have, they accept they can't do 'this' but they can do 'the other'."

FA spokesman Mike Parry said: "FIFA and the FA have common ground on this matter. They have sent us a message endorsing the action we've taken and confirming we take whatever steps we now deem appropriate."

Asked if the FA were likely to take further action, Parry added: "You can't hope for instant solutions."

"The FA are terribly aware of our responsibilities and we are in constant dialogue with FIFA, who are completely supportive of the action we've taken so far."

## Italian clubs selling abroad, making money

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Some of Italian soccer's top foreign stars have deserted the league for more money elsewhere in Europe. But the lucrative transfers have raised plenty of money for Italy's cash-strapped clubs.

The big names have found they can get more lucrative contracts in England, France and Germany as a result of the fall of the lira against most European currencies and the dollar.

Among those who have left Italy during the off-season were Dutch stars Dennis Bergkamp and Ruud Gullit, England captain David Platt and England midfielder Paul Gascoigne.

The moves even included the rare transfer of an Italian player to the English League, with Torino striker Andrea Silenzi joining Nottingham Forest on Monday.

But many Italian clubs are making money from the transfer of their expensive stars. In the past, the return of foreign players to their original league always resulted in a net loss for the Italian clubs.

Internazionale of Milan, which sold Bergkamp to London club Arsenal for 19 billion lire (\$11.8 million) last month, made a profit of about 2 billion lire (\$1.2 million) on his original cost two years ago.

Arsenal paid Sampdoria \$7.6 million for Platt, in a deal which meant a 50 per cent net profit for the Genoa club.

Other transfers which paid off handsomely for the Italian clubs included Panamanian forward Dely Valdés from Cagliari to Paris Saint Germain, Gascoigne from Lazio to Glasgow Rangers, Brazilian defender Marcio Santos from Fiorentina to Ajax Amsterdam, Gullit from Sampdoria to Chelsea, and Nigeria's Sunday Oshodi from Reggina to Cologne.

"No doubt there are richer leagues than Italy, by now," says Sandro Vitelli, manager of first-division Cagliari. "And it's often less expensive for German and English clubs to sign experienced



Chelsea's new signing Netherlands' international Ruud Gullit (left) screens the ball from Gillingham's Leo Fortune-West during a pre-season match staged at Priestfield Stadium in Gillingham (AFP photo)

players in Italy, rather than on their own markets."

Soccer agent Giovanni Branchini said most Italian clubs were faced with a severe financial crisis as the weakness of the lira made it difficult for them to offer contract extensions to their best foreign stars.

"Only the big teams such as Juventus, AC Milan, Inter and Parma still can afford big contracts for their foreign talents. Others are struggling," Branchini said.

Several Italian soccer experts said the growing competition from English clubs was due to a massive cash injection from television networks.

"England and Germany are going through a golden moment," Branchini said. "But bigger contracts and growing expenses will soon cause the same problems

faced by Italian clubs."

English Premier League Chief Executive Rick Parry welcomed the trend.

"It's interesting that there is a little bit of a reversal between ourselves and Italy in terms of finances," he said. "The Italian game is a bit in the doldrums, with concern about the number of clubs in debt and how they are going to sort things out."

Parry said those problems "are not things you can reverse overnight. Such cycles last more than a decade at time."

Former premier and AC Milan president Silvio Berlusconi lamented the impact of the fall of the lira on soccer imports.

"It's increasingly difficult to get good foreign players, because we must face the competition of clubs which once were unable to match

our bids," Berlusconi said.

However, the Italian television mogul did not count the pennies when he decided to strengthen AC Milan in a bid for the next Italian League title and the UEFA Cup.

Berlusconi invested about 40 billion lire (\$25 million) to sign French striker George Weah, Italian star-forward Roberto Baggio and Portuguese Roberto Figueira. Coach Fabio Capello has a stellar forward line also including Montenegrin Dejan Stankovic and Italian internationals Marco Simone and Gianluigi Lentini.

Parma, second to Juventus of Turin last season, paid about \$8.5 million for Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov. Paul Ince's transfer from Manchester United cost Inter about \$9 million.

La Juve financed the trans-

fer of internationals Pietro Vierchowod, Attilio Lombardo and Vladimir Jugovic from Sampdoria by selling the team's jewel, Baggio, to rival AC Milan.

Lazio of Rome did not sign new stars, but kept the team competitive by refusing high bids for strikers Giuseppe Signori and Alen Boksic and midfielder Aron Winter.

"There is a growing imbalance between the few big rich clubs and the others in Italy. But difficult times are helping some club presidents to become good managers," said manager Beppe Bonetti.

And a business of about 500 billion lire (\$312 million) a year, from telecasts of soccer matches via pay and cable, television, should make all Italian clubs richer — and again high-spending — within a few years.

## Germany accused of turning penalty dive into art form

BONN (R) — German players have been accused by soccer's governing body FIFA of turning the dive in the penalty area into an art form.

In a hard-hitting column in Germany's most respected soccer magazine Kicker, FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter takes both the nation's players and officials to task.

"The players lose their tempers, swear at the referee and opposition, have turned the dive into an art form and fake injury," he said.

"The German stars surpass other countries in this

area some time ago."

Earlier this week FIFA threatened Germany with a World Cup ban after officials ordered matches to be replayed because of alleged refereeing mistakes, saying they had disregarded the principle that "a referee's factual decisions are irrevocable."

Blatter said: "German referees have a hard job. Especially since the German Soccer Federation (DFB) has deviated from the principles of FIFA rules more than once."

"The cases have not only cost time but also caused general discord and misunderstandings and set off a course of events that will be

even more difficult to stop."

The DFB upset FIFA when they ordered a second division match between Chemnitz and Leipzig in June to be replayed because of refereeing mistakes. FIFA ordered the national federation to reverse the decision.

Last season the DFB also imposed a ban on Borussia Dortmund's German international midfielder Andy Moeller after television pictures showed how he had taken an obvious dive in the penalty area. The referee awarded a penalty.

Last year they also ordered another game between Bayern Munich and Nuremberg to be replayed.

## World records safe for Gotheburg

MONTE CARLO (AFP) — Noureddine Morceli of Algeria and Moses Kiptanui of Kenya narrowly missed out on world records here Tuesday in the last athletics grand prix before the World Championships.

Kiptanui, the world 5000m record holder, mounted a bold bid to regain the 3000m record he lost to Morceli here last August.

But only days after coming close in his assault on the 3000m steeplechase record, the Kenyan had to settle for the second best mark of all time. Morceli's record of 7:25.11 survived, with Kiptanui clocking 7min 27.19sec after maintaining world record pace for all but half a lap.

Morceli, who two weeks ago broke his own 1500m world record in Nice, once again targeted a record over the distance. But his mark of 3:27.37 was safe, though the Algerian who ran alone for the last 700m, came agonisingly close, timing 30:27.52. Steve Holman (USA) was second in 3:32.01 with Frenchman Eric Dubus third in 3:33.34.

The man who holds world records at four distances broke a world record nine days prior his Nice feat, with a new 2000m mark in Paris.

Perhaps he is asking too much of himself just before the August 4-13 World Championships in Gothenburg. But Morceli is still not satisfied. He will be a man to watch in Sweden.

In the men's 100m, Donovan Bailey of Canada finally showed the form in Europe which he demonstrated 10 ago in Canada when he won the national championships in 9.91sec.

Bailey clocked 10.05 to beat Ato Boldon, the former world junior champion from Trinidad into second place in 10.10. Canada's Bruny Surin



Noureddine Morceli

was third in 10.14. In the women's 200m Gwen Torrence of the United States stormed ahead of Irina Privalova to win in 21.81 with world champion Merle Ottey of Jamaica third.

It was Russian Privalova's first outdoor meeting of the season and the 1994 European champion at 100 and 200 metres clearly lacks sharpness ahead of the World Championships.

Commonwealth champion Kathy Freeman of Australia established herself as the women to beat over 400

metres ahead of Gothenburg. She clocked 50.34sec to win the event here in a severe setback for France's Olympic champion Marie-Jose Perec, who finished a distant sixth in 50.88.

Freeman's Australian team-mate Renee Poetschka was second in 50.47 with Sandi Richards of Jamaica third in 50.59. Perec said before the race she expected to run a sub-50sec time.

She has been concentrating until now on the one lap hurdle race in an attempt to

do the double at the championships in the absence of England's injured Sally Gunnell, the world and Olympic champion. Perec showed her potential when she won in Oslo on Friday in 53.92sec. But her flat racing may have suffered, though fatigue was also in play here, her fourth race in five days.

She is still determined to try the double and her hopes of doing so have received a boost from athletics officials here, who have agreed to extend the gap between the 400m hurdles heats and the 400m final Aug. 8 by more than an hour to 2hr 45min to ease the strain on the Frenchwoman.

American Kim Batten ran the fastest time of the year to win the 400m hurdles in 53.86sec, just before Perec's failure in the 400m. Perec will have her work cut out in Gothenburg.

The men's 800m produced one of the finest runs of the night, with Kenyan-born Wilson Kipketer of Denmark bursting clear of a field of top Kenyans to win in 1:42.87, the best time of the year which establishes him as a clear favourite for the world title.

Kenyan Sammy Kiptoo was second in 1:43.96 with compatriot David Kiptoo third in 1:44.08. Sonia O'Sullivan of Ireland won the 1500m in the fastest time of the year so far, 3:58.85. The 3000m European champion who was second in the 1500m in the Stuttgart World Championships in 1993 is hitting a peak in time for Gothenburg and confirms her status as a title favourite.

The race was marred by the fall of Algeria's Hassiba Boulmerka. The 1991 world champion. She tripped and hit the ground hard, needing medical treatment by the track-side.

## Ex-champs. Indurain could keep winning Tour de France title

PARIS (R) — Miguel Indurain's reign as king of the Tour de France may be set to run and run, according to the riders whose record of five victories he equalled on Sunday.

Belgian Eddy Merckx and France's Bernard Hinault, along with the late Jacques Anquetil were the only others to have won the tour five times. Both said the 31-year-old Spaniard could add at least another tour or two to his tally.

"I think he's set for a sixth or even a seventh tour win," said Merckx. "I won my last tour when I was 29 but you can't compare my case with his. He may be 31 but he bases his whole season on the tour and he should be able to last."

Hinault said: "If he has no health or injury problems, he can go a long way yet." Indurain, the only rider to have won five tours in succession, refused to be drawn on how many more he can add. "I'm not thinking about it at all," he said. "I take one year at a time. I can fix my objectives later."

The Spaniard, often criticised for restricting his aims to winning the tour rather than other major races, said he would like to win a world road race title in his career as well as some of the one-day classics. And he said he aimed to take part in next year's Atlanta Olympics where professional riders will compete for the first time.

By common consent, Indurain's victory in this year's three-week race was his most impressive as he abandoned his usual defensive tactics and went on the attack several times.

Indurain won his four previous tours by opening up a huge gap in the time trials and defending his lead doggedly in the mountains.

This year, although he won the two races against the clock, he did so by a smaller margin but gained time with some spectacular offensives in the climbs, taking second place at La Plagne and the Alpe d'Huez in the Alps and third place in the Pyrenean Resort of Guzet-Neige.

"Everyone has improved in time trials," Indurain said. "Both in terms of preparation and equipment. The level is much higher now. (Swiss) Tony Rominger is the most one-hour record-holder but he was clearly beaten twice in the time trials."

The 1995 tour will be remembered as Indurain's record year, but it will also go down as the race in which Olympic champion Fabio Casarati died.

The Italian, only the third fatality in the tour's 92-year history and the first since Briton Tom Simpson in 1967, fractured his skull in a fall during the 15th stage.

"It was a terrible shock," said Indurain. "We lost a colleague and everyone was extremely upset. After that, things weren't the same any more. The atmosphere was different in the Peloton. We couldn't laugh and joke as before."

The tour was also marked by some great solo rides for outstanding stage wins, notably by Swiss Alex Zülle at La Plagne, Italian Marco Pantani in L'Alpe d'Huez and Guzet-Neige, Frenchman Richard Virenque at Caudebec and his compatriot Laurent Jalabert at Mende.

## Renewed Brazilian squad announced

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Romario and Bebeto are memories. Now, so are Tulio and Taffarel.

Two days after losing the final of the America Cup to Uruguay, Brazilian coach Mario Zagallo Tuesday announced a renewed national team remarkable mostly for the names it left out.

Gone are goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel and forward Tulio, singled out as the villains for Brazil's 5-3 penalty shootout loss in last Sunday's final at Montevideo, Uruguay.

Taffarel failed to move when Uruguay scored on a free kick to tie the game. Tulio, who had irked Zagallo by griping when he didn't start, missed his penalty shot in the tiebreaker.

Still absent are Romario and Bebeto, the stars of Brazil's 1994 World Cup champion team. The two had

asked to be released from the team until next summer's Olympics in Atlanta, although Romario this week said he was ready to return.

Zagallo also left off Roberto Carlos, of Palmeiras, and Souza, of Corinthians. The two teams met in the finals of the Sao Paulo state championship next week.

Ronaldo, a 18-year-old forward at Dutch club PSV Eindhoven, was left off for treatment of his tonsils and adenoids. "Ronaldo has difficulty breathing on the field," Zagallo said.

Brazil is stepping up a programme to renew the national team, with an eye to the Atlanta Olympics and the 1998 World Cup in France.

"The important thing is the renewal we are undertaking," said Zagallo. "The more games for the new team, the better."

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH

#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q1—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠AK782 ♠AK106 ♣73 The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass What action do you take?	Q5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠J85 ♠A106 ♣AJ1076 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass What do you bid now?
Q2—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠87642 ♠7 ♠A1063 ♣AJ The bidding has proceeded: North East South West Pass Pass 3 ♠ Pass What action do you take?	Q6—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠QJ73 ♠J10865 ♠954 ♣A The bidding has proceeded: East South West North 3 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Dbl What action do you take? Look for answers on Monday.
Q3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠K762 ♠KQJ883 ♠KQ74 Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?	Q4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

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## Bruguera and Edberg advance in Montreal; crowd taunts Rusedski

MONTREAL (R) — Spain's Sergi Bruguera and Sweden's Stefan Edberg won first-round matches at the \$1.795 million Canadian open on Tuesday, but it was a 50th-ranked loser who really got the crowd's attention.

Greg Rusedski had a ball thrown at him and was constantly booed throughout his 7-6 (7-2) 6-3 loss to 91st-ranked Michael Joyce of the United States.

Rusedski, a Montreal native, committed the crime in the eyes of the partisan crowd of recently rejecting his Canadian citizenship to become a British subject.

As Rusedski walked off the court, the crowd, in one of the strongest reactions to a tennis player in recent memory, serenaded him with the refrain from an old song: "Hey, hey, hey, na, na, na, na, wave goodbye."

"It didn't hurt my feelings," Rusedski said. "I thought I'd get a difficult reaction. I prepared for it and I expected it."

In what became the subplot to the night, the 15th-ranked Edberg was listless during the first set, but found his form for a 2-6, 6-1 victory over 208th-ranked Albert Chang of Canada. The 10th-ranked Bruguera struggled for a 6-1 6-7 (2-7) 6-4 win over 97th-ranked Cristiano Caratti of Italy.

led by Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras, received first-round byes.

Edberg has now won 751 career matches, which is more than any active player on tour. The Swede said he doesn't pay much attention to those milestones, but that sometimes, "it's good to remind yourself what you've done, what you've achieved," Edberg said. "It's good for your confidence."

On serve, with Chang leading 3-2 in the first set, Edberg visibly wilted. He lost the next three games, dumping a routine backhand volley into the net to relinquish the set.

But the match turned when Edberg broke Chang's serve in the first game of the second set. Edberg dominated Chang from that point on, allowing the Canadian to hold serve only twice in the final two sets.

"I felt sluggish in the beginning," said Edberg, who lost in last week's Washington D.C. final to Agassi.

"He played some really good shots in the first set. But once I got the break, I felt the momentum."

Bruguera, playing in his first hardcourt match since the 1994 U.S. Open, arrived here after squandering four match points to Thomas Muster in last week's Stuttgart semifinals.

After easily taking the first set, Bruguera, did not have a



Sergi Bruguera

break point opportunity against Caratti in the second set. And he fell way short of Caratti's surge in the tiebreaker.

The third set saw-sawed between both players, but eventually Bruguera eked out a

service break in the final game.

"It was a tough match," Bruguera said. "If you want to be in the top 10, you can't just play on clay. But the change in surface is really hard on you."

## Seles sets aside past fears before her return to tennis

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AFP) — Monica Seles makes her return to tennis here Saturday, setting aside past horrors and heroics to begin taking control of her life.

Seles will play Martina Navratilova in an exhibition match, her first competition since being stabbed in the back on April 30, 1993. Seles has overcome the physical and emotional trauma of going from champion to victim in what might be her greatest triumph.

"I will be nervous and excited," Seles said. "It will be something I haven't seen in 2 1/2 years. With a huge crowd, you're very nervous. I will just try to go back to the normalcy and everything that was working before I left."

She might as well try to capture lightning in a bottle. At age 19, Seles was the queen of tennis. She had it all — two years as undisputed world number one, eight Grand Slam titles among 32 WTA singles crowns and \$7.4 million in winnings in slightly more than four years.

Only a loss to Steffi Graf in the 1992 Wimbledon final kept Seles from a Grand Slam sweep during a run of seven victories in nine events. She won the French Open from 1990-1992, the U.S. Open in 1991 and 1992 and the Australian Open from 1991-1993.

"I hope I'll have another chance at Wimbledon," Seles said. "I rise above my game at Grand Slam events. Every Grand Slam for me is an extra special thing. I can't say how much they have meant for me."

The 1993 Australian final became the most meaningful

for Seles, who feared more than once through her long recovery it might be her final Slam triumph.

"Winning the Australian Open in '93 was the biggest. I finally felt like number one," Seles said. "I felt bad I didn't get to play all those Grand Slams. I was stopped at the peak."

Seles uses phrases like "left the game" or "stopped playing" when "almost killed" would be closer to the truth. Seles was seriously wounded 27 months ago during a change-over against Magdalena Maleeva in a quarter-final match at the Hamburg Open.

Guenter Parhe, a 38-year-old unemployed lathe operator who wanted Germany's Steffi Graf to be world number one, leaped out of the crowd from behind Seles and plunged a knife into her back just below the left shoulder blade.

"My scream is what stayed with me a long time," Seles said.

Nightmares remained after the pain had subsided. For two years, Seles became a tennis recluse, losing perhaps the most magnificent years of her career. The youngest girl to become the world's best player has grown into a woman.

The opportunity to watch her transformation is what Guenter Parhe took from the world.

"I think I'm still the same person," Seles said. "I've grown up a little bit, matured some. I'm two years older. I'm the same pretty much

everywhere, just a little taller."

Yugoslavian-born Seles became a U.S. citizen on March 16, 1994. She and her parents, father Karolj and mother Esther, moved to Sarasota, Florida.

"She's not a little girl anymore. She's a woman," said Navratilova, who worked out with Seles in May. "Her skills haven't deteriorated. When I played with Monica, I was doing most of the running. When she gets her confidence back, she is going to be tough to beat."

"I'm playing against the number one player in the world as far as I'm concerned."

Seles was 17 years, three months and nine days old when she first held that honor. She will be restored to the rankings as a co-number one with Graf when she returns to the WTA Tour next month under a special plan Navratilova pushed.

"Monica was the victim of an unprecedented crime in sports," Navratilova said. "She deserves to return with a number one ranking."

Seles begins her comeback on a rubberized carpet surface installed here Monday at the Convention Centre, chosen for this event because Navratilova had matches nearby Friday and Sunday. For Seles, it could have been anywhere.

"I just look forward to getting back out there and playing," Seles said. "Taking each match step by step is my goal."

## S. Korea to spend \$1.3 billion on World Cup stadiums

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea will spend \$1.3 billion on new and renovated stadiums in its bid to host the 2002 World Cup finals, the bidding committee said Tuesday.

The committee downplayed rival host candidate Japan's announced outlay of \$5.2 billion, saying it was due to higher construction costs and the high value of the yen.

Both countries plan 11 new stadiums and several extensive facelifts, but the South Korean committee said with seven of South Korea's new stadiums would be built exclusively for football.

The biggest budget item for Seoul would be \$264 million for a 65,000-seat stadium in the second city of Pusan. Seoul's 70,000-seat Olympic stadium would undergo a nine million dollar facelift, the committee said.

The \$1.3 billion figure has been revised up from \$750 million, and includes the Pusan and Incheon stadium construction costs, which were earlier budgeted separately from the World Cup, the committee said.

## Basketball federation chief satisfied with national teams' debuts abroad

By Roufan Nahhas  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — President of the Jordan Basketball Federation Awwad Haddad said he is "content with the national team's performance" in the Youth World Basketball Championship which took place in Athens earlier this month.

"I am satisfied with the team's achievement in Greece. Although we came in the last place, but it was a good experience for the team," said Mr. Haddad at a press conference Tuesday.

The team, together with China and Korea, represented Asia in the championship. It is the first Jordanian team to qualify for a world championship by clinching the Asian bronze medal earlier this year. The team returned from Greece after losing all the matches; it took the 16th place of the 16 countries participating in the tournament.

"Jordan played in the most difficult group with the title holders the U.S. and second placed Italy so we expected them to lose. Anyway, we were playing for 9 to 16th places," Mr. Haddad said. "We tried our best but it seems our best was not enough so we came in the last place," he added.

The team did practice extensively playing with Syrian top teams and adhering to a rigid training schedule in Amman.

"We saw that our team is ready for the tournament, so we tried to provide all the things they needed although we have a tight budget; we overcame the troubles with the help of the

Ministry of Youth" Mr. Haddad said.

Besides the financial problems the federation faced, many other challenges in the process of sending the team, like arranging for the Tawjihi players to have the results of their first semester exams count as results for the second semester without actually having to sit for the examinations.

Mr. Haddad added that national teams of other countries do extensive training and receive care and sponsorship from all people concerned.

A special policy should be adopted, regarding our national team. In other countries they put a lot of energy in building a qualified team which will represent the country in international championship," Mr. Haddad said.

It was hard to send two teams with the current budget of the federation. Mr. Haddad said in reference to the women's basketball team which is now playing in Level B in Japan.

"We have a limited budget which tied our hands and that is why we depended on the contributions from good people," he noted, again referring to the team's efforts to collect enough money to enable them to attend the Asian Championship. "We are not expecting the women's team to win, but to have them there (in Japan) is something remarkable as some teams were surprised that a country like Jordan has a women's team and that is why the team is very popular there," he added.

The Kingdom's team, regrouped after a 12-year abs-

## Improved national team defeated by Hong Kong

By Aileen Bannayan  
in Shizuoka

THE JORDANIAN national team appeared in a better form Wednesday despite its 65-45 loss to Hong Kong in the 16th Asian Basketball Championship for Women staged in the Japanese city of Shizuoka.

Losing the first half 16-38, the Jordanian team managed to win the second 29-27.

Jumana Salhi was the team's top scorer with 21 points. Hala Mubeisin scored 10 points, Rania Dajani seven points, Jehane Abdunnour three, Indeira Qassiseh two points and Tala Maue two.

The Jordanian team missed the efforts of Suhair Maqusi, who had a knee injury during a warm-up on Monday. Abdunnour played only 17 minutes because of a sprained ankle.

On Friday Jordan, which lost to the Philippines and Malaysia in its previous games, will on Friday play Thailand and on Saturday Indonesia.

Results of other matches played Wednesday were as follows:

Level A:  
China beat Japan 80-70. Kyrgyzstan overcame Kazakhstan 76-68, and Korea defeated Taiwan 87-79.

Level B:  
Malaysia defeated Indonesia 50-49 and Thailand beat the Philippines 69-55.

Level A's top three teams will represent Asia in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games and the group's last team will be demoted to Level B. The winner of Level B will be promoted.

ence and playing in their first Asian championship displayed the disadvantages of having only four practice matches prior to the championship.

"We should adopt a new policy concerning our national teams not only in

basketball. This policy can have a remarkable results if we are willing to take the initiative and build a team which will represent our country and not only be there but also bring back results," Mr. Haddad added.

## Senior Indonesian official objects to Israel attending world fencing event

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A senior official expressed objections Tuesday to allowing Israel to send a team to Indonesia next week for the World Outdoor Archery Championships.

The six-day competition, to be opened Aug. 1 by President Suharto, serves as a qualifying round for the 1996 Olympics.

Murdiono, minister at the state secretariat, said Israel's participation could incite strong protests from the people of this predominantly Muslim nation. Indonesia is a staunch supporter of the Palestinians and does not recognize Israel.

He said he had expressed the objection to Oesman Oesman, chairman of Indonesia's Archery Association and also minister of justice. But he declined to disclose details of his talks with Oesman.

The association announced last week that Israel and Portugal — neither of which has diplomatic relations with Indonesia — would be among 105 countries in the championships.

Referring to archery world governing body, FITA, Oesman was quoted by the English-language newspaper Jakarta Post as saying: "We are holding the championships... and consequently, we will comply with its rules and regulations."

Imam Suyudi, assistant to the state minister of youth and sports affairs, said the two countries could participate but would not be allowed to use their national flags or anthems.

A 1988 ministerial decree, however, forbids Indonesian athletes to "directly face or compete" with those from countries having no ties with

Indonesia.

On Tuesday, foreign office spokesman Irawan Abidin said there was no problem with Portugal's participation.

Portugal severed diplomatic ties with Jakarta after Indonesia's 1976 annexation of East Timor, which had been a Portuguese colony for 400 years.

Two years ago, the govern-

ment came under criticism for admitting Israel and South Africa to a World Tourism Organisation event on the tourist island of Bali.

Jakarta then had not established ties with Johannesburg.

In 1991, Indonesia's tennis association had to make a public apology after allowing Indonesian athletes to play Israeli in a youth tournament in India.

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# Japan strongly committed to establishment of Mideast development bank

From P.V. Vivekanand  
in Tokyo

JAPAN fully supports the proposal to set up a Mideast development bank and believes that a failure to announce the creation of the bank at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit in Amman in October would send a negative political message to the region, a senior Japanese diplomat said Wednesday.

Yuji Ikeda, the former Japanese ambassador to Jordan who now serves as his country's special representative to the Middle East peace process, also pledged that Tokyo would press efforts to realise the proposed development bank.

"We believe that a fail-

ture to announce the creation of the bank at the Amman summit would send a negative political message to the entire region," Mr. Ikeda told the Jordan Times. He specifically referred to the strong campaigns launched by the four "core parties" in the Middle East — Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians — to realise the idea of the bank to serve as a single coordinating body that would serve regional economic development.

Mr. Ikeda, who attended a meeting last week of a task force on the proposal in Moscow, said "a substantial number" of other countries also supported the idea, but the Moscow

meeting failed to bridge the fundamental difference between those in favour and those opposed to the call.

However, he said, there was some indirect progress, in that both sides agreed on the need to having a "Middle East and North Africa Financial Intermediary Organisation (MENA-FIO)".

The key gap, he said, was that while those who supported the proposal for a regional development bank believed that MENA-FIO should be clearly established as the forerunner of such a bank, which would take two years to be formally set up, others left the option open, saying that MENA-FIO should decide whether to set up the bank.

"Japan is with the first group, which supports the idea of a bank, and will press its position with others in the next meetings of the task force" in Rome in September and in Washington in October, said Mr. Ikeda.

"We believe that all the countries should have a unified approach to the idea and will seek to bridge the gap between the proponents and opponents of the proposal," he said. "We are highly optimistic."

Mr. Ikeda, who left Amman early this month after a two-and-a-half year tenure as Japan's ambassador to Jordan, said the Moscow meeting did not discuss specifics of the proposed bank in terms of capital contributions to the bank.

Proposals call for \$5 billion in capital, to be raised at \$1.25 billion every year for four years.

Some of the European Union (EU) countries oppose the creation of such a bank, arguing that there are enough regional and international bodies which could handle the financing of development and infrastructure projects stemming from the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Most Gulf states also oppose the idea, obviously reluctant to commit funds to the body.

The U.S. strongly supports the proposal.

Mr. Ikeda described the creation of the new post at the Japanese Foreign Ministry that he heads as a

clear message of the importance Tokyo attaches to Japan's role in the Mideast peace process.

"It reflects our desire to develop a stronger political role for Japan in the Middle East after it has already established strong economic relations with the countries of the region," said Mr. Ikeda.

In his new capacity, Mr. Ikeda will be the key Japanese representative to the multilateral working groups of the peace process as well as to the steering committee of the MENA summit.

The ambassador expressed disappointment that an invitation prepared by the World Economic Forum, one of the organisers of the summit, seemed to play

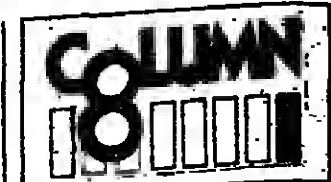
down the Japanese role at the gathering.

"Let me say this," said the ambassador. "Japan will definitely be playing a much more active role than the World Economic Forum paper suggests."

After all, he noted, Japan has played key roles in the multilateral working groups and planned "to reflect some of the results of the work of the groups in concrete terms at the summit."

Furthermore, he said, "there is a growing interest among Japanese businesses to attend the summit."

"We are indeed working hard for a strong and active Japanese private sector presence and participation in Amman."



## Fujimori's wife agrees to divorce

LIMA (AFP) — President Alberto Fujimori's estranged wife Susana Higuchi announced Tuesday she had agreed to her husband's request for a divorce to shield their children from the emotional toll of a court battle. Ms. Higuchi filed for divorce June 9, alleging "grave abuse." Their marital problems, which were rooted in Ms. Higuchi's frustrated political ambitions, turned into a public battle royal last year after the president turned the first lady out of the presidential palace. In a statement, Ms. Higuchi said she was agreeing to the divorce without admitting to the allegations in Mr. Fujimori's divorce suit. "With this decision I want to establish my desire not to ventilate family affairs in confrontational terms," she said. Unnecessary confrontation would only hurt their four children — Keiko Sofia, Hiro Alberto, Sachiko Marcela and Kenji Gerardo — and the image of the Peruvian presidency, she said. Her statement made no mention of Mr. Fujimori's request for custody of their two youngest children: Sachiko Marcela, 16, and Kenji Gerardo, 15.

## Asthma killed Krissy Taylor — autopsy

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AFP) — Model Krissy Taylor died from an irregular heartbeat brought on by bronchial asthma, but an over-the-counter inhaler may have aggravated her condition, a medical examiner said Tuesday. Taylor, the 17-year-old sister of supermodel Niki Taylor, was found dead by her sister at the family home in Florida, on July 2. Family members said she had been using Primatene Mist, an over-the-counter treatment for asthma, which had not been prescribed by her doctor. Broward County Medical Examiner Joshua Perper said Taylor's asthma brought on a cardiac arrhythmia, but that the asthma inhaler may have aggravated the irregular heartbeat. She had no alcohol or illegal drugs in her system when she died. Perper said three deaths linked to the inhaler have been reported to federal authorities. The drug maker, Whitall-Tobinson, has defended the products as safe if properly used. A congressional panel looked into the potential dangers of Primatene Mist last November but took no action as to whether the drug should be given a prescription-only status. Taylor had appeared on the covers of Seventeen and YM magazine, among others.

## Mother, daughter die in pig manure tragedy

ORTHEZ, France (AFP) — A mother and daughter died after being overcome by fumes while cleaning out a liquid manure pit, officials said Tuesday. The husband who tried to save them also was overcome, but was pulled out alive by rescue services. Jeannine Labourdette and her 15-year-old daughter Mireille climbed into the 10 cubic metre pit on their farm near Orthez, southwest France, Monday night to clean it. The mother was the first to faint from the fumes of liquid pig manure at the bottom. Her daughter was overcome as she tried to help her mother. Jean Labourdette, climbed in to help but also began to suffocate.

## Actor jailed on illegal gun possession charges

MANILA (AP) — An actor who often portrays inmates in movies is often to taste real prison life. Robin Padilla, known as the "bad boy of Philippine movies," has been ordered to prison by the court of appeals, which upheld a 1994 lower court sentence of 17 to 20 years for illegal possession of firearms. Padilla was caught in possession of three high-powered guns on Oct. 26, 1992, the same day he side-wiped an egg vendor with his car. Police dismissed his purported firearms licences as forgeries.

## French police step up security after Tuesday blast

PARIS (AP) — Police increased patrols of Paris subways Wednesday, the day after a bomb killed four people in a rush-hour subway train, while the interior minister appealed to the public for help in beefing up security.

Of the 60 people injured, 34 were still hospitalised Wednesday, 14 of them in serious condition after the bomb exploded in St. Michel station below Paris' Latin quarter.

A man committed suicide Wednesday morning at the exact spot of Tuesday's bombing by jumping in front of the subway train, fire department officials said.

The victim could not immediately be identified, according to the fire department, which handles rescue operations in the city. The suicide briefly stopped traffic on the busy train line, which had resumed service early Wednesday.

Some 1,800 extra police were sent to train stations, airports and large shopping centres around the country amid fears that a string of terrorist attacks might occur as they did in 1986.

Police were systematically opening coin-operated lockers at Paris train stations, Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debré said.

"You must help us," Mr. Debré said in an interview on the radio network France-Inter. "You must be vigilant about package you notice, about people who act suspiciously."

He said he hoped "all citizens will rally to fight terrorism."

There was no claim of responsibility by Wednesday morning, but Mr. Debré told France-Inter an Islamic connection was possible, and a Serbian connection was "not impossible."

There has been much speculation that the bombing could have been carried out by a militant group fighting the government of Algeria, which has the tacit backing of France, Algeria's former colonial ruler.

An Algerian cleric who had reportedly served as a conduit between Algeria's underground insurgency and the French government was shot to death in Paris July 11. His killers have not been caught.

The other most-often evoked hypothesis is that a pro-Serb group plotted the bomb in retaliation for a reported French attack Sunday on Serb positions in Pale, Bosnia.

Two French-based Muslim groups condemned the

attack. The union of Islamic Organisations in France and the National Coordination of Muslims of France called the bombing "a barbarous act aiming to disrupt the peace and security of our society."

In Beirut the spiritual leader of the Lebanese group Hizbollah condemned the attack AFP reported.

"This was a barbaric and unwarranted act, whoever carried it out and whatever party he belongs to," Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah told reporters.

"We are against terrorism anywhere in the world and believe that attack on innocent civilians or attempts to reach internal political ends through force amount to terrorism," he added.

The bomb exploded at 5:30 p.m. (1730 GMT) at the train pulled into the Saint-Michel station along the Seine river near Notre Dame cathedral. The explosion set off a smoky fire inside the train, shattered glass and tangled metal.

The bomb weighed three kilograms and was triggered by a timer, according to a source close to the investigation.

Paris Mayor Jean Tiberi called the bombing "an incomprehensible act of barbarity... odious, unimaginable, unacceptable."



Elderly men, women and children refugees, fleeing the Bosnian enclave of Zepa that fell to Serb forces Tuesday, are transported by the U.N. forces to the government held town of Kladanj (AFP photo)

## Nine Islamists arrested in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police have arrested nine members of the Muslim Brotherhood, the country's oldest and largest Islamist group, in the second raid on the group in a week, a senior Brotherhood official said on Wednesday.

Ma'moun Hodeibi told Reuters police arrested the men later on Monday in Kafr Al Sheikh province, north of Cairo, and accused them of converting a small mosque into a coordinating centre for the outlawed organisation's activities. He denied the charges.

The government newspaper Al-Ahram said on Wednesday police found Brotherhood leaflets, books and video tapes along with documents setting out the group's strategy in the nine men's homes in the town of Foa in Kafr Al Sheikh.

The men, who included doctors, engineers, teachers and merchants, are led by Mohammad Ahmad Ragab, president of Foa local council, the paper said.

Al-Ahram said the Brotherhood's spiritual leader, Hamed Abu Nasr, had been toppled from his post by a brother who favoured more confrontational approach to the government.

But Mr. Hodeibi denied the report.

"They have used this lie before. This is all imagination and lies and has no basis in fact whatsoever. We are fed up with these reports," he said.

Police rounded up 20 prominent Brotherhood members in raids across the country last week and linked the group with Sudan's Islamist leaders, whom Cairo has accused of helping an attempt to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia last month.

The Brotherhood said the government was capitalising on the assassination attempt to continue its long-running dispute with the group, which wants an Islamic state in Egypt but has rejected the violence of Muslim militant organisations such as Al Gama'a Al Islamiyah (Islamic group).

The Muslim Brotherhood was formed in the 1920s and banned by the late President Gamal Abdul Nasser 30 years later. Successive governments tolerated the group's activities and the Brotherhood has recently won control of several professional unions.

## OPIC mission arrives in Gaza

GAZA — Executives representing more than a dozen private American companies — midway through a week-long Mideast mission led by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) — met here Wednesday with Palestinian officials and business leaders to discuss opportunities for private investment in Gaza and the West Bank, the group said in a press release.

"We have been impressed with the enormous potential here, and have held many informative and productive meetings," said Christopher

Finn, Executive vice president of OPIC. "We are hopeful that the work we begin here this week will lead to solid ventures that create jobs and help stimulate future economic development."

As part of its long-term plan to promote private American investment in Gaza and the West Bank, OPIC is leading this mission to the Middle East. The companies on the mission come from across the United States, are both small and large and represent a variety

of sectors — energy, construction, light manufacturing, water treatment, financial services and tourism.

Another mission participant, George S. Siguler, is representing the private firm of Siguler, Guff & Co., managers of an OPIC-supported \$250 million fund that will make direct equity investments in private business ventures in the West Bank, Gaza, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The Middle East/North Africa Regional Growth Fund is currently raising capital from private investors.

## Dole's Jerusalem effort receives little public support in U.S.

By James Zogby

WASHINGTON — A poll commissioned by the Arab American Institute (AAI) showed little public support for efforts by Senator Robert Dole (R-Kansas) to force a move of the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

By a margin of 46 per cent to 20 per cent those polled preferred the position of the Clinton administration that "the status of the city should be negotiated between the Israelis and the Palestinians."

The poll also showed public ambivalence to Israel's claim to "all of Jerusalem as its capital." But a margin of 30 per cent to 19 per cent respondents supported a city divided between Palestinians and Israelis. Significantly 45 per cent had no opinion.

The AAI poll conducted by the John Zogby Group of New York was the first such survey of U.S. public opinion attitudes towards the status of Jerusalem.

The poll of 900 registered voters was conducted from July 17 to 20, 1995 and had a margin of error of  $\pm 3.3$  per cent.

While the poll showed continued U.S. sympathy towards Israel (by a margin of 22.7 per cent to 7.3 per cent over Palestinians — that margin is less than in earlier years, with a significant 24 per cent indicating sympathy with both parties. A high 30 per cent were not sure with whom they sympathised.

The results also indicate a partisan split in attitudes, with those who voted for President George Bush in 1992 giving much higher support to Israeli claims than those who voted for President Bill Clinton or independent Rose Perot.

A summary of the questions and response follows:

## U.S. attitudes toward Jerusalem

1) Israel claims all of Jerusalem as its capital. Palestinians say that East Jerusalem, which Israel captured in the 1967 war, should be the site of the Palestinian capital. In your view, should Jerusalem be?

	Total	Dole's
Entirely Israeli	18.6	19.7
Divided capital	29.8	45.7
Neither	6.5	6.6
Not Sure/No opinion	45.0	28.0

## 2) Senator Dole has introduced legislation to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem in recognition of Israel's claim that Jerusalem is its capital.

The Clinton administration opposes the legislation saying that the status of the city should be negotiated between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Which position do you support?

	Total	Dole's
Clinton Administration	45.7	19.7
Neither	6.6	6.6
Not sure/No opinion	28.0	45.7

## Helms introduces Middle East peace facilitation act

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Foreign relations committee chair senator Jesse Helms and the panel's ranking Democrat, senator Claiborne Pell, July 21 introduced legislation that would impose tough new restrictions on aid to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Helms said his aim in crafting the bill "was to tighten and strengthen the standards under which the president may waive existing restrictions on assistance to Palestinians."

Unless the Palestinians "meet the strict requirements of this law," Mr. Helms said, assistance to them would be cut off after six months.

The legislation requires the PLO, among other things, to: Eschew and condemn violence, and bar those who commit such acts from parti-

cipating in Palestinian institutions;

— Keep to commitments, and annul those portions of the Palestine National Covenant which call for the destruction of the state of Israel;

— Observe international norms of human rights and democracy;

— "Disarm gun-toting thugs throughout territories controlled by the PLO and fight alongside Israel to arrest, prosecute and imprison terrorists and would-be terrorists."

The legislation is cosponsored by senate majority leader Bob Dole and minority leader Tom Daschle, as well as by republican senators Connie Mack and Mitch McConnell and democratic senators Joseph Lieberman, Dianne Feinstein, Patrick Leahy and Frank Lautenberg.

## 4 Hizbollah fighters killed in clash with Israeli troops

MARIYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli warplanes blasted suspected guerrilla strongholds in south Lebanon Wednesday hours amid clashes in which four guerrillas were killed and four Israeli soldiers wounded.

Security sources said two fighter-bombers fired at least six rockets on the hills of qilim Al Tuffah, or apple province, where the Iran-backed Shiite Muslim Hizbollah, or party of God, has several bases.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was no immediate word on casualties or damage from the five-minute air strike, Israel's 30th in Lebanon this year.

The Israeli military command said only that air force jets attacked "Hizbollah terrorist targets" near Jebel Safi, a mountain where Hizbollah has a base.

The attack that triggered

the air strike was launched before dawn. Guerrillas were spotted moving against an outpost at Houla hill in the centre of the Israeli-occupied enclave in south Lebanon, the sources reported.

The Israelis and their militia allies of the South Lebanon Army raked the infiltrators with tank and automatic weapons fire, the sources said.

The security sources said four guerrillas were killed and two Israelis wounded. Hizbollah communiques mentioned no losses. But the movement's radio station, the Voice of the Oppressed, claimed the bodies of several "Zionist Jewish soldiers" were seen lying at the scene of the clash.

There was no immediate word from the SLA or the Israelis on the clash.

Several hours later, two Israeli soldiers were wounded in another clash with Hizbol-

lah in the occupied enclave, which Israel calls its "security zone," the sources reported.

At 2:30 p.m. (1130 GMT), "Hizbollah guerrillas detonated a bomb near an SLA patrol in the central sector of the zone."

Hizbollah claimed the blast "killed members of the patrol," but security sources in the enclave said there were no casualties.

An SLA officer was killed and three militiamen were wounded in two roadside bomb ambushes in the zone Tuesday.

Wednesday's casualties raised this year's toll in south Lebanon, the last active Arab-Israeli warfront, to 109 killed and 253 wounded.

Hizbollah leads the guerrilla war in the south aimed at driving the Israelis out of the 1,100-square-kilometre border strip, established in 1985 to block cross-border raids.

## Qatari foreign minister in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — The foreign minister of Qatar, which is pursuing a foreign policy towards Iran and Iraq which has irked the United States, arrived in Iran Wednesday for his first visit since a June 27 palace coup in the emirate.

Sheikh Hamad Bin Jasim Bin Jaber Al Thani, was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati, the Islamic Republic news agency reported.

The official Iranian agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Sheikh Hamad as saying he would discuss bilateral cooperation and international issues, including the Bosnian crisis, with Iranian officials.

He also said he had a message for Iranian President

Hashemi Rafsanjani from Qatar's new emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, who peacefully ousted his father in the coup.

IRNA quoted the Qatari minister as saying the emirate stands ready to help Bosnia's beleaguered Muslims to defend themselves against their Serb foes, but did not elaborate.

Iran, which is widely believed to have sent weapons and military advisers to Bosnia, is pressing for stronger Islamic military support for the encircled Muslims there.

The Qatari minister's visit was seen as part of the emirate's delicate diplomatic balancing act and has been welcomed by Tehran.

The Iran news daily declared Tuesday that it was an opportunity "for Tehran and

Doha to join hands to tackle existing problems which are blocking the way to peace and security" in the region.

Qatar's foreign policy, particularly its relations with Iran and Iraq, have often put it out of step with its GCC partners. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain.

One of the key points of contention between Iran and the conservative monarchies across the Gulf is its dispute with the United Arab Emirates over strategic islands which dominate the Strait of Hormuz, the only way in and out of the waterway.

Qatar's overtures to Iran have caused dismay in Washington, as the Clinton administration has intensified its efforts to isolate the Islamic republic.

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